



*Genesis 15:1-6*

## **BIG IDEA**

We have the highest honor of magnifying the Lord through our oneness.

## **ICE BREAKER**

Genesis 15 is God's covenant promise to Abraham and to all who come to God through Christ in faith.

God makes a promise and then He gives Abraham a picture. This is exactly what Matt's mother did for Matt when he was an elementary student. Matt needed to do an allergy test that included some painful steps. So, his mother gave him a "promise with a picture". She told him that if he would endure this test she would buy him the Tonka truck he wanted. The picture his Mom kept putting in his head helped him to persevere.

This story of Abraham is a "promise with a picture" that is for us too. We need to enter it and allow our imagination to capture it.

1. Share a story from your life. Pick a story from your childhood or pick a story from your parenting journey when a "picture of promise" was given to enhance perseverance.

## **NEXT STEP**

Not given today.

## **ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

We, as a church, are in this story of promise with Abraham. God has promised us a land, a name, an identity. God now calls us as a church to magnify Him. To understand the word "magnify" we can think of a telescope. Through it we look at something enormous and magnify it to see how big it really is.

Our church is supposed to be like a telescope. We magnify The One who made that night sky. If the night sky can silence us in awe how much more the God who created it all. Now we, the church, are to provide the world with a picture of God. But we can be

distracted from our mission by current events or blinded by our own pride--our pride tells us to look at something other than the promise and the picture.

We show the greatness of God to the world through our oneness in Christ. We don't magnify Christ when we are on our own and independent. We don't magnify Him when we demand from others or when we gossip or create division. The greatest way we can lose focus is due to our pride.

We must remain laser focused on our mission with God.

1. Make a list together of the actions or qualities that lead to and maintain oneness(think about all relationships such as marriage, parent/child, small groups, our church etc). Then make a list of actions and qualities of a person that divides. Share each list with the group. Group leaders: consider reading Philippians 2 together.
2. Ask the Spirit to reveal to you anything in you that is leading to division or has the ability to do so. Reflect on the same relationships as question #1 above. Share with the group anything that He reveals. Group leaders: consider giving time for the group to reflect or perhaps pray together and ask God to reveal truth to each member.
3. Each of us in Christ have magnified the Lord in our lives! Share with the group some ways that you or others in your life have taken steps to cultivate unity. Don't only think of big ways but small ways as well. Perhaps these categories can spur some thought: humility, leaning into Christ for security and significance instead of toward people, how you worked through anger, and, forgiveness.

## **NOTES AND QUOTES**

### PROMISE PICTURE PERSEVERANCE

The promise in Genesis 15:1 is a covenant. "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

God responds to Abraham's question by repeating the promise. "Your son will be your heir."

God then gives him a picture of looking up at the stars. God wants the picture to remind him of God's promise.

Isaiah 50:4-6 includes prophecy about Christ's suffering. Jesus believed the promise of the Father so it drove Him forward and sustained Him on the cross: "I shall not be put to shame."

What an honor it is to magnify Christ on this earth.