

# MESSAGE NOTES

The Story  
Chapter 2, God Builds a Nation

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Faith = \_\_\_\_\_

Living by \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ trust

God may ask you to sacrifice your \_\_\_\_\_.

God may ask you to sacrifice your \_\_\_\_\_.

God may ask you to sacrifice what you \_\_\_\_\_ the most.

“Here I am” is the beginning of sacrificial \_\_\_\_\_.

Sacrificial living brings \_\_\_\_\_.

Why should we sacrifice to God? God sacrificed \_\_\_\_\_  
for us.

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# CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

For the week of September 24, 2023

The Story - Chapter 2, God Builds a Nation

## GETTING STARTED \_\_\_\_\_

1. Is it difficult for you to keep promises that you make to others? Explain.
2. Share a time when someone important in your life made a promise to you and kept it. Was there a time when someone failed to keep a promise? What was the result?

## DIGGING DEEPER \_\_\_\_\_

1. Chapter 2 of The Story opens with God calling Abram to make the sacrifice of leaving a comfortable life: homeland, friends, family, and steady income. Have someone read **Genesis 12:1-9** and answer the following questions:

Has God ever called you to do something radical and specific? What was required of you? What were the results?

2. Abraham serves as a great example of faith for all of us to see. Faith could be described as **“trust in something when it lacks proof of the evidence.”** As you consider Abraham’s faith, what are some clear actions of faith on his part?

What demonstrations of faith can you identify in your own life?

3. Abraham and Sarah waited 25 years for God to fulfill His promise. What were the challenges or obstacles they faced?

Have you waited for a long period of time for God to act in a given situation? If so, what was it?

Are you waiting on something now? (Share the circumstance only if you are comfortable.) How might this example serve to encourage you and possibly others?

4. Sarah also receives a promise from God in **Genesis 18:10-15**. How does her initial reaction to this promise compare to Abraham's earlier reaction to the promise in **Genesis 15:4-5**?
5. In **Genesis 17:5, 15** God makes his relationship with Abram and Sarai official by making a covenant with them and changing their names. This was a sign of good character. How has your character changed since your relationship with God began?

What are some things you need to trust God in so He can bring about the change you know He desires?

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION \_\_\_\_\_

1. What can we learn from the patience and perseverance of Abraham and Sarah in waiting for God's promises to come?
2. Waiting for our prayers to be answered is not easy for anyone. What are some things you struggle with while you wait?

How can your group pray with and for you as you wait?

***\*Make sure you read through Chapter 3 before you come to church next weekend.***

## PRAYER REQUESTS \_\_\_\_\_

