



Week One | Abraham | 12.04-05.2021

Grow Deep Conversation Questions: Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal time of study or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90-minute group gathering.

Series Recap: The Christmas story is full of wonder and magical memories of a night two thousand years ago that changed everything. It would be easy to assume the men and women outlined in Jesus' lineage were all faithful and nearly perfect, but what we find instead is a long line of imperfect people that God used to get the world ready for the moment His Son would come into the world.

» Opening (3 minutes)

- Introductions - This is especially important if this is your first meeting and if there are new members.
- Housekeeping - Clarify expectations:
 - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting.
 - **Remember, there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - Open your time together in prayer.

» Introduction (12 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: Talk about one of your favorite family Christmas traditions. What made it so special?
- Digging Deeper: Who are some of the people you know from Jesus' genealogy in Matthew 1?

» Observation | Read Matthew 1:1-6; Genesis 12:1-3; 16:1-6; Hebrews 11:8-12 (12 minutes)

- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

» Key Principle | **Our hope is in God's faithfulness, not our failures.** (12 minutes)

- Looking again at the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1, are there any names that surprise you in that list? Why is that?
- What do you think were the challenges for Abraham and Sarah as they obeyed God in traveling from their home, having a child at a much later age, and staying faithful even when their trust wavered?

» A Promised Future | Reread Genesis 12:1-3 (12 minutes)

- God made some big promises to Abraham that were not realized immediately. What is something you have had to wait for? What do you do in the waiting to remain faithful to God? What have you learned in those moments of waiting?

» A Compromised Trust | Reread Genesis 16:1-6 (12 minutes)

- After a compromise or failure, Abraham always returned back to God. Why do we sometimes turn away from God in those moments?

» God's Exponential Faithfulness | Reread Hebrews 11:8-12 (12 minutes)

- Most of us have something from our past that represents a failure, compromise, or our brokenness. How can Abraham's story help you remember that God wants to use your past pain for something incredible that He can do in and through you?

» Next Steps and Prayer | (15 minutes)

- How can you turn back to God this Christmas, trusting that He will receive you with open arms just like He did with Abraham?
- Close by praying for each other to think about the ways God has used your own broken beginning in ways you couldn't have imagined.