

## REFLECT

Think about a time when your faith was put to the test. How did you respond?

Why do you think God allows our faith to be tested?

## RESPOND

Discuss as a group ways your faith is being tested today. How can you help each other pass these tests? What can you commit to do? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



# NAVIGATING THE BIBLE

Never forget: the Author of the Bible is the Author of you. When we learn about the Bible, we learn about ourselves, our lives and how to live them to their fullest, and God our common Author.

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Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart in *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth*  
"The Bible contains what we often hear called God's Story—a story that is utterly true, critically important, and often complex. It is a magnificent story, grander than the grandest epic, richer in plot and more significant in its characters and descriptions than any humanly composed story ever could be."

Mission is the golden thread woven throughout the entire Word of God.

## Adam and Eve

This is thought to be the very first piece of foreshadowing regarding Jesus and his defeat of Satan and all the evil for which he stands. Paul mirrors this language in Romans 16:20...The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

## Genesis 3:15

**And I will put enmity  
between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will crush your head,  
and you will strike his heel.**

## Noah and the Ark

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## Genesis 9:13-15

I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth...Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.



RoB McCORD



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## The Tower of Babel

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Genesis 11:9

That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

## Father Abraham

Genesis 12:2-3

"I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;  
I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.  
I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you."

This says a lot about how God sees people. We would look at Abraham and see just one man. God sees Abraham and all his potential and his faith and love—and He sees all his unborn children and grandchildren. God can see the future as easily as the present and when God saw Abraham He saw an entire nation just waiting to happen. What does God see when he looks at you?

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Hebrews 11:1-2,8-12

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for...

Genesis 15:6

Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

What we learn about God:

He is a promise-maker and a promise-keeper.

What we learn about ourselves:

We are of extreme importance and value to God.

What we're encouraged to do:

Believe and have faith.

## NAVIGATING THE BiBLE...Part one: BeGINNInGS LIFE GROUP STUDY

### RELATE

If your biography had a chapter of Genesis (beginnings), what would it say?

Tell about a "beginning" in your life and what it means to you.

What new insight or idea made an impression on you from this week's sermon?

### READ

#### Genesis 22:1-19

In this story Abraham's faith is tested when God asks him to sacrifice his son Isaac—the son God promised Abraham would become a great nation.

Why would God make such a strange request? Or was it strange? How does Matthew 10:37 shed light on this?

If this story were a scene in a movie, how do you picture it? What would the score sound like? How would the audience feel?

Abraham and his reputation as a man of deep faith was well known to the writers of the New Testament almost 2,000 years later.

Check out James 2:20-24. What does this say about faith?