

“A People of God”

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

Message Summary

God created Adam and Eve for a relationship with Him. But they turned away from God and broke their relationship with Him, one another, and the created world. As a result, all of humanity has a broken relationship with God and a sinful nature. This was apparent in Adam and Eve’s two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain killed his brother out of jealousy and consequently was banished by God as a wanderer on the earth. As the population of people continued to quickly rise, sin grew rapidly from family to family and generation to generation. People continually acted violently toward one another and God saw that people’s thoughts were completely evil all the time. This broke God’s heart and made Him wish he had not even created people. So God decided to start over by flooding the whole earth to wipe out everything that had the breath of life in it. However, one man named Noah found grace in God’s eyes and God spared him in the global Flood. After the Flood God blessed Noah and his family and commanded him to be fruitful and multiply people on the earth once again.

At least 10 generations of people passed and God chose a man named Abram to be the one through whom He would fulfill the promise He made in the Garden (Genesis 3:15). The Story of Abram, who would soon become Abraham, is a story of God forming His family, a People of God. This family would be blessed by God so that they might be a blessing to the world. Abram and his family were to show the rest of humanity what God is like. They would be a people chosen by God to trust His ways and not their own ways. God in turn made a covenant with Abram and promised Abram His presence, protection, and a place to live. But Abram would have a purpose in life. He was called by God to show His love to the world.

God’s covenant with Abram was an unconditional covenant. In other words, God’s promise was sure. The linchpin in God’s promise to Abram was he would have innumerable offspring. The problem with this promise, at least in Abram’s eyes, was he was an old man and his wife was well past childbearing years. Abram thought, “How could God fulfill His promise?” But God’s promise, His covenant, is unconditional. He will do it! And He did! However, His covenant with Abram had a conditional side. It required Abram to have faith. God required Abram to trust Him rather than his own understanding. Fortunately, Abram believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness.

God includes us in His family in the same way He did Abram. God calls us away from living life on our own and calls us to trust Him. He made a covenant with us through His Son, Jesus the Promised Redeemer of Genesis 3:15. Jesus lived and died on a cross as payment for our sin. So when God looks at us He sees Jesus’ righteousness and when God looked at Jesus on the cross He saw our sin. This gives us rest and hope. However, we must believe that by faith, and when we do, God welcomes us into His family.

As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week think about your connection to God’s family. Are you part of the People of God? Have you found rest in being counted as a child of God who lives on mission with the rest of the family? Also think about those who you might invite to the StoryFormed Way journey as you prepare to learn to tell this part of the Story of God!

Message Outline

God forms His Family by...

1. **Calling (12:1-3)**

Call Away from familiar.

Call to Himself.

Call for mission.

2. **Covenant (15:1-21)**

Christ Promises Us...

- Protection
- People
- Place
- Presence
- Purpose

3. **Commitment (17:1-14)**

Faith.

Repentance.

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Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-21, 17:1-14:

1. What does this passage say about God’s character?
2. What is God doing here? How does this passage fit in the overall narrative of the Bible?
3. What is God saying about me?
4. Where am I not living by faith? How do I return to faith?
5. How should I practice this in everyday life?

Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**

- Pray that God would give us new believers and covenant members.
- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
- Pray for the Missional Communities impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray for new DNA groups to start.

- **Local:**

- Pray for the Storyformed Way, a 10-week journey through the Story of God. Pray for open and receptive hearts and for God to use this journey to draw people to Himself.
- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.

- **Global:**

- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.