

Group discussion *Each number below includes questions that relate to the scripture. I offer a few answers, but your perspective may be better. The point is to discuss, not to get 100% agreement. Rule of thumb: the fewer questions you ask, the better. Save time for “the big question.”*

1. In this morning’s sermon Kevin discussed several passages of Scripture and points related to the mission of College Hills. What were some of your highlights from what Kevin said this morning?

What was something you were reminded of about what it means to be a Christian in our world today?

Where is one place (or ministry) you plan on contributing in the upcoming year as a part of the mission at College Hills?

Read Genesis 12:1-5 aloud. Since it is a short passage you might have two or three additional individuals read the text as well. This way everyone can become even more familiar with the words.

2. What is God’s command to Abraham in this text? (1)

Why do you think this was a difficult command for Abraham to hear?

What would have been the hardest part for you to hear if God had given this same command to you? Why?

Have you ever experienced a time in your life where you felt like you were being called by God to go somewhere or do something? What was your experience?

3. Kevin referenced this morning that this command to “go” is a theme running throughout Scripture. Can you name some other places where we see God’s intention of going into the world? See Bible notes.

What does this theme of sending in Scripture tell us about God?

Why do you think this is an important commandment?

What do you think this importance means for the people of God today?

4. What is the promise God makes to Abraham in this text? (2-3)

What does it mean to be blessed by God?

What does it mean to be a blessing to others?

Have you ever experienced a time in your life where you were blessed by another person (or group of people)? Share your experience.

5. What is the response of Abraham in this text? (4-5)

How old is Abraham when this major turning point in his life happens? (4)

What might this fact tell us about the life of faith and the God we serve?

6. Kevin reminded us in his sermon that God’s ultimate aim for Abraham (and for us) centers on people throughout the world.

Who is a Christian you know in your life now (or have known in the past) who made people a priority?

What is it about their words or deeds that reveal this priority?

How do you think Christians can do a better job of remembering the priority of people on a day-to-day basis?

† **The million-dollar question** *If you ask only one question, let this be it. Allow at least 20 minutes. Go around the circle and give each person an opportunity to answer. It’s okay if they pass, but at least they get a chance to respond.*

Who is one person in your life right now that you can go and be a blessing to before the end of the year? How do you plan on blessing this person?

Resources

Bible notes

One central theme of Scripture is God's command to "go." This theme will be central to the discussion this week. Some other passages you might want to look at as you prepare for your discussion are: Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 15, and Acts 1:7-8.

Kid-friendly activity. *An activity designed to help kids and adults grow in faith together. Do this first, then dismiss the kids so the adults can talk.*

Play the "One Voice" Game

Prep: Find an open space where the kids have room to move around. Also, find something that can be used for a blindfold.

Gather the kids together. Ask for one volunteer. Blindfold the volunteer. Place them in a position where they can move about in the open space. Have the rest of the kids stand behind them.

Tell the kids that when you say, "go" they all need to begin giving the blindfolded kid directions about where they should walk. Tell the blindfolded volunteer to follow their instructions. (Yes, this should create some chaos since every kid will be giving different instructions).

Once the chaos has ended pick one more volunteer (and leave the blindfolded individual blindfolded). Tell them that when you say, "go" only this one volunteer can give them directions.

Gather the kids together and ask: Which time was it easier for the volunteer to follow instructions? Why? Ask the volunteer: What was it like for you to hear many voices about where to go versus just hearing one voice?

Read: Genesis 12:1-5.

How many voices does Abraham listen to in our text? What does the voice of God say to him? What do we learn about what is important to God based on what he says to Abraham? Let's remember to be people who listen to God's voice alone and to be obedient to that voice.

Pray: God, help us to trust and obey you alone in all we do. Amen.



December 5, 2010

LIFE Group Guide

Genesis 12:1-5 – Go!

By Wilson McCoy (wilson.mccoy@gmail.com)

The theme: God is inherently missional. From Abraham to Acts and beyond we find God commanding his people to go and be a blessing to all nations. However, the potential for blessing cannot be fulfilled unless we make one crucial step—go!

This week Kevin's sermon reminded us of the heart of God—that God is ultimately about mission which means God is ultimately about people. As a result, those who follow God are to have the same priority. We are to be the kinds of people who show interest in people so that they can begin to know the love of God. Through our relationships with one another we can help others come to have relationship with God.

Leadership tip: People are the most important part of Life Groups. Without the various individuals who lead and make-up these groups there would be no connections and no relationship. This week take time to share with your groups how Life Groups, and the people in them, have impacted your life for good.

Relate *Use a few to introduce the theme, check everyone's spiritual pulse, and "break the ice." No right or wrong answers – maybe goofy but not wrong! Look for opportunities to affirm and encourage through these questions.*

- ❖ Since the last time Life Groups met we celebrated Thanksgiving. Take a moment to share one thing for which you are thankful this year.
- ❖ Share with the others in your group what you did on the recent holiday. Was it a good holiday? Or was this one difficult? Explain why.
- ❖ Who in the group went shopping the day after Thanksgiving? If you did go give us the details. Where did you go? What time? What did you buy? Do you have any crazy stories?