



Growth Group Discussion Guide

Passage: Genesis 18:1-15

Introduction: In this passage God visits Abraham and Sarah to confirm His promise to them. Abraham and Sarah will bear a son. In response Sarah laughs. This laughter is not born out of joy but out of cynicism, despair, and unbelief. This passage encourages us to recognize that even in our discouragement God loves to draw near to us and keep His promises.



Into the Word

Throughout Scripture Abraham is called a friend of God. What does it mean to have God as a friend? How does God treat Abraham like a friend in this passage? Consider: Isaiah 41:8; 2 Chronicles 20:7; James 2:23

God reaffirms His promise to Sarah. What does Sarah's response reveal about her heart? How does God respond to Sarah? How is this an expression of God's grace? Note: The word translated "hard" in verse 14 means that which is extraordinary.

Read John 15:13-15. How is friendship with God fulfilled in Christ?

Compare: Matthew 1:23, John 1:14

Note: The Ultimate Theophany

What promises has God given to us in Christ? What passages come to mind?

Consider: Phil 1:6; Lam 3:22; Hebrew 13:5; Rom 8:28; or John 11:25



Into the Heart

Reflect on a time when you experienced discouragement in your Christian life. What was the root of your discouragement? Did you need a deeper sense of God's promises or God's presence?

Consider: Revelation 3:20

What hopes or ambitions for your life are you confusing with God's promises? How is this affecting your experience of the Christian life?



Into the World

How does God use our gatherings for worship on Sunday to communicate His presence with us and His promises to us?

How would a deeper sense of God's presence and promises change the way you make plans or approach your ambitions?