



Growth Group Discussion Guide

Passage: Genesis 23

Introduction: In this passage Sarah dies in the land of Canaan. After grieving the death of Sarah, Abraham approaches the Hittite people in hopes of securing a place for Sarah's burial. A man by the name of Ephron generously offers Abraham the field of Machpelah. After paying for the land Abraham buries Sarah in the land of Canaan. Ultimately this passage encourages us to consider how the everlasting promises of God shape how we approach our neighbors and the end of our lives.



Into the Word

In Abraham's day people were buried in the land of their ancestors. Yet Sarah is not buried in the land of Ur but in the land of Canaan. How is Abraham's decision to bury Sarah in the land of Canaan an act of faith? What did Abraham and Sarah believe about God's promises? Consider: Hebrews 11:9-13

Even though God had promised the land of Canaan to Abraham (Gen 12:6-7), in verse 4 Abraham acknowledges that presently he is a sojourner and foreigner in the land of Canaan. How did this identity shape his interaction with the Hittite people? Consider: Hebrew 11:13-16



Into the Heart

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14. Reflect on a time when you grieved the passing of a fellow believer. How do we grieve as those who have hope in God's promises?

Consider: Hebrews 6:17-18.

Note: You'll Never Grieve Well Without Hope

Like Abraham, we too have been called to live as sojourners and foreigners. Where in your life are you tempted to live only as a citizen of this world? How does this affect your decisions in this aspect of your life? What might trusting God's promises look like in this area of your life?



Into the World

How would a clear sense of God's promises help you walk with those who are reaching the end of their life? What about your own life?

Consider: Psalm 90:12

Read 1 Peter 2:11-17 How might embracing your identity as a sojourner and exile in the world shape the way you live with your neighbors?