



BIBLE STUDY

MAJOR CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE



<https://campus.cru.org/college/bsu/community-group-material/>

BIBLE STUDY NORMS

MAJOR CHARACTERS IN THE BIBLE

LEADER NORMS

Take some time to read over these on your own.

- * Please prepare and look over the material for the week. We designed this study to be very user-friendly, but it is your responsibility to come prepared each week and best tailor this study to your group's needs.
- * Please look over the questions and answers we have prepared for you. Feel free to add or take away questions as you see fit to best meet the needs of your group.
- * Foster a group that asks questions and leads discussion themselves (Est. at the beginning of the semester).

GROUP NORMS

Take some time to read over these with your group.

- * Value the contribution and voice of all group members
- * Give people time to respond, silence is okay.
- * Challenge people in their thinking. Ask questions like "What led you to that answer?" or "Where did you find that in the passage?"
- * Respond to distracting comments by asking, "Where is that found in this passage?"
- * Lean into the fact that we are an interdominational movement and learn from one another's different theological backgrounds. Please respect and honor those in your group that might think differently than you.

MAJOR CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE

STUDY MODEL

OVERVIEW

01

This section will provide you with a general overview of the characters we will be looking at in the study. It will also provide you with some vocabulary words for your group and the first set of questions to help you gauge your groups understanding beforehand.

VIDEO

02

This section will provide you with a video that discusses the characters and section of the Bible we will be in. It will also be the section where you pray to start the study.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

03

In this section you will find the passage that we will be reading as well as the launch question and some understanding questions for your group. It will also provide the supportive New Testament text with questions for the group.

QUESTIONS

04

This is where you will have all of your questions.

ANSWERS

05

This is where you will have all the answers to the questions. Question number and answer number will correpsond.

NEXT STEPS

06

This section will provide you with some additional resources and will encourage you to gauge your groups understanding of the discussion you just had.

WEEK **03**

ABRAHAM

ABRAHAM

OVERVIEW

01

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

GENESIS 15: 1-21

Context:

Abraham is who we will be looking at in this study. Abraham is a descendent of Noah and his son Seth, and his son Terah who is Abraham's father. When Abraham was an adult God sovereignly and providentially called him to be the father of his people and made a covenant with him. A covenant is a promise between 2 or more parties. In the covenant he was promised a land, a nation and was given a blessing. Abraham obeyed God and began to move to the promised land. When we now encounter Abraham it has been a few years after that first covenant from God and he is getting older and still childless with his wife Sarai. Abraham just before this rescued his nephew Lot from Sodom and fought 4 Kings and Kingdoms. At this point Abraham is very tired and fearful for his life because he fears the Kingdoms might fight back. This is where we now read this passage.

GROUP CONTEXT QUESTIONS: (~5 MIN)

Who, What, Where, When, Why and How?

Who: is Abraham?

What: did Abraham do?

When: is Abraham in the Bible?

Where: is Abraham in the Bible?

Why: should we know about Abraham?

How: does Abraham impact us?

VOCABULARY WORDS:

- **Covenant**
 - Covenants are agreements between 2 or more parties. In the Ancient Near East, covenants were how government bodies made treatises, deals, or contracts. In these Covenants, there was always a larger/stronger party (known as the Suzerain) and a smaller/weaker party (known as the Vassel).

WHEN AND WHERE

- When asking when and where is Abraham in the Bible, make sure to cover setting as well as book and chapters of the Bible. Who came before him and after him? What else was going on in the world?

ABRAHAM

VIDEO

02

WATCH THESE VIDEOS WITH YOUR GROUP

Watch this video

- * This is a Bible Project Video on the second half of Genesis that touches on the covenant that God makes with Abraham.
- * Allow your group to discuss what they think about the video if you think that would be beneficial.
- * [Video Link Here](#)



PRAY FOR TONIGHTS STUDY

Ask someone in the group to pray

ABRAHAM

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

03

LAUNCH QUESTION (~5 MIN)

Allow your group to discuss this question

- * Has there ever been a time in your life when you were supposed to do something but you did not live up to the requirements and failed? How did you feel after that happened? Were there any consequences?

READ THE PASSAGE: (~5 MIN)

You can break up the reading of the passage: **Genesis 15: 1-21**

- * Allow the group time to look back over all that they just read
- * Discuss what stands out to them and go through the understanding questions

UNDERSTANDING QUESTIONS: (~5 MIN)

What does this passage teach us about:

- * God (Father, Son and Spirit)?
- * The world?
- * How we relate to God?
- * How we relate to the world?

SUPPORTIVE NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGES: (~5-10 MIN)

Ask the first question then look at these passages: **Romans 4: 19-24, Galatians 3: 13-14, 29**

- * Does the New Testament say anything about these characters? (Read Passages)
- * How does this passage connect with a main theme that points me to Christ?
- * How does this passage aid my understanding of Christ and what he's done?



ABRAHAM

QUESTIONS

04

OBSERVATION & INTERPRETATION: (~10-20 MIN)

Always ask: “What sticks out to you?” to begin a discussion:

Read Genesis 15: 1-6

- 1 What are some repeated words?
- 2 How did God appear to Abraham?
- 3 What reasons does Abraham give for doubting God's plans?
- 4 What is “heaven” in verse 5?
- 5 What does God compare Abraham's future offspring to?
- 6 Why did God count Abraham as righteous?
- 7 In verses 1-3 does Abraham sound like he is fully confident in God or does it sound like he is struggling to believe/doubting?
- 8 What does it mean that space is considered “the heavens”? Do you think of space as a big area of nothingness or as a space of spiritual significance?
- 9 What is the amount of offspring God tells Abraham he will have?
- 10 What does it mean that Abraham believed and God “counted it to him as righteousness”?
- 11 How is Abraham saved according to this passage?

Read Genesis 15: 7-12

- 12 Does God reveal himself to Abraham or does Abraham reveal himself to God?

13 What does YHWH say he has already done for Abraham?

14 Does Abraham still have doubts?

15 What does God's statement in verse 7 imply about God's character and his working with Abraham in the future?

16 Why might God cut animals and line them up as he is now?

Read Genesis 15: 13-21

17 How long does God say Abram's descendants will be afflicted?

18 What is happening in verse 17 and 18?

19 How does God represent himself when he walks through the animals?

20 What point in the Bible is the period of sojourning that God is referencing in verse 13?

21 What is different about this covenant compared to other covenants that would have happened in this time? What is the significance of this?

22 If God took on the punishment for failing the covenant, and we know that Israel did not obey the covenant, then where and when and how did God take the punishment?

APPLICATION:

What does this mean for us?

- 23 We often live in seasons of waiting. As believers God promises us many things that we do not yet have. Have you found yourself doubting God or struggling because something is taking really long? What might God be asking you to do based off of this passage?
- 24 God has called us to follow his will, but sometimes it is confusing or hard and we are not quick to obey just like Abraham. How can we change this and hold each other accountable to do the same?

- 25 Just like Abraham, we are saved not by anything we do but by what God has done for us. We are saved by Grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). Do you struggle to believe this? Do you feel like you have to earn your salvation? What can you change in your life as a result of the truth that you are saved purely by God's grace.

ABRAHAM

ANSWERS

05

OBSERVATION & INTERPRETATION ANSWERS:

Answers

- 1 Allow the group to discuss
- 2 In a vision.
- 3 He is still childless even after the promise of being “the father of many nations”.
- 4 Space and the stars.
- 5 The number of stars in the sky.
- 6 He had faith (he believed).
- 7 He is struggling to believe but he still has faith.
- 8 Let the group discuss.
- 9 A lot. As many as the stars.
- 10 That Abraham's faith is the grounding for his being declared “right”, or “righteous”, or “clean” before God. He is already righteous.
- 11 By faith in God. He believed and he is counted as “right” before God.
- 12 God comes down to Abraham. In all of God's working with humans he always has to reveal himself first to us. This is called revelation. There are 2 forms of revelation: general and special. This is an example of special revelation.
- 13 Brought Abraham out of the pagan land to bring him to a new land to possess.
- 14 Yes. (vs. 8).
- 15 It shows that he is faithful and HE is ultimately the one who has protected and given Abram provision.
- 16 This takes some historical context so do not be surprised if you have to read this outloud to answer. In ancient near east cultures, people often made covenants.
- 17 400 years.
- 18 God seals the covenant with Abram by walking through the aisle.
- 19 A smoking fire pot and a flaming torch. Throughout the Bible God reveals himself through smoke or fire.
- 20 When Israel was enslaved to Egypt.
- 21 The difference in this covenant is that it was a unilateral covenant. Abraham (the smaller party) never signed the covenant, rather, God (the larger party) is the one who signed it for both of them in the ritual by walking down the aisle. This would have been completely counter-cultural. The certainty of this covenant is based on who God is and not Abraham. This covenant cannot fail, because God cannot fail.
- 22 In the person of Jesus Christ when he dies on the cross. Just like God himself walked through the aisle to take on the punishment, so too did God himself come down and die on the cross. Jesus' death on the cross is a fulfillment and completion of God walking through the aisle. It is God doing what he said he would do. Even though Israel and the church failed, God does not.

APPLICATION ANSWERS:

Allow your group to discuss their answers for questions 23-25.

ABRAHAM

NEXT STEPS

06

NEXT WEEK

Decide as a group about next week

- * Should we continue discussion on this passage or move on through the text next week?
- * Do you guys feel confident in your understanding of what was discussed tonight?
- * Any questions? (Allow anyone to come to you in private if need be)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's going on???

- * Where is Cru this week?
- * What are our next upcoming events?
- * Any other announcements?

PRAYER

Break off and pray

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Provide these for your group's further learning

- * [Who was Abraham?-GotQuestions](#)
- * [Who was Abraham?-Ligonier](#)
- * [What is a covenant?](#)

