

Winter 2010

SMALL GROUP SERIES:

Let There Be Light

Genesis: The Story Begins

Discussion Guide

Week #9.1: Vision Weekend

Genesis Series #9.1: Vision Weekend

Genesis 19:1-13 (TNIV)

1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. 5 He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

8 From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

9 Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

Matthew 5:13-17 (TNIV)

13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Small Groups

Transforming Community @ RBCPC



Facilitator's Guide

This week we have produced an additional discussion guide outside of the sermon. The scripture from Genesis 12 gives us a glimpse of the vision God has for Abram – appropriate for reflection and discussion as the RBCPC vision is explored this week through the following events:

- **March 13/14** – Vision Weekend Sermon, all worship services
- **March 17** – Town Hall Meeting, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- **March 21** – Congregational Meeting, 12:45 p.m., Sanctuary

You are welcome and encouraged to attend any or all of these events – consider attending as a group!

Here is the vision we share for Small Groups @ RBCPC:

We expect to see *external* results of *internal* transformation. Small Groups are about life transformation. RBCPC Small Groups will produce: disciples of Jesus, students of the scriptures, connected friends, caring servants, and innovative and courageous missionaries.

Connection | *"Love each other". John 15:17*

Study | *"You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:14*

Prayer | *"If you remain in me and I in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you." John 15:7*

Support | *"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13*

Mission | *"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples" John 15:5*

Adapted from ***RBCPC Small Group Core Principles***

Genesis Series #9.1: Vision Weekend

START IT

- What keeps people from respecting Christians and the church nowadays?

STUDY IT

- Read the Genesis passage. What's the story? Make observations.
- What does God promise Abram? List the promises.
- What does it mean to be blessed? What does it mean to be a blessing?
- How does Abram respond to God?
- What might have been clear to Abram at this point? What might have been confusing?
- What was Abram's responsibility in this promise of God?
- What would be difficult for Abram to leave? What's difficult for you to leave where you are comfortable and known?
- Read the Matthew passage. What metaphors does Jesus use to describe us?
- What is the purpose of salt? Light?
- What does this passage teach us about our role as Christians?
- What are practical examples of being a blessing, being salt, being light?

LIVE IT

- Some might say that Christians need less Bible study and more Bible "doing". Do you agree or disagree? What might you do to respond to these passages?
- Who in your life is God inviting you to bless and serve?
- When will you do it?

PRAY IT

- To become people who are a blessing.