Small Group Discussion Questions

Genesis 18:16–33 | The Power of Intercession

1. **Opening Question (optional)** What's the funniest thing you've ever negotiated over - a price, a bedtime, a restaurant choice – and did you win?

2. **God Invites Us to Intercede (vv. 17–19)** God chooses to reveal his intentions to Abraham rather than keeping them hidden. What does this reveal about God's relationship with his people and the role he wants us to play through prayer?

3. **The Justice and Mercy of God (vv. 20–25)** Abraham appeals to God's character when he asks, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" How should our understanding of God's justice and mercy shape the way we pray for others?

4. **Praying for Those Who Are Difficult to Love** Abraham intercedes for Sodom despite its great wickedness. Why is it sometimes difficult to pray for people we believe deserve God's judgment? How can we genuinely desire God's mercy for wrongdoers without minimizing the suffering of their victims?

5. **Boldness and Humility in Prayer (vv. 27–32)** Abraham describes himself as "dust and ashes," yet he repeatedly approaches God with bold requests. What does Abraham teach us about the relationship between humility, confidence, and persistence in prayer?

6. **The Ways We Misunderstand Intercession** The sermon identified three distortions of intercession: treating prayer as manipulation, reducing it to sentiment, and praying only for those closest to us. Which of these do you think Christians struggle with most, and why?

7. **What Keeps Us from Praying?** The sermon identified four reasons we neglect intercession: we don't care enough, we struggle to trust God's justice or mercy, we feel too insignificant to ask, or we simply give up. Which of these obstacles most resonates with your own experience?

8. **Jesus Christ, Our Great Intercessor** Abraham pleaded for the wicked, but Jesus went further: he gave his life for them and continues to intercede for his people (Hebrews 7:25). How does knowing that Christ is continually interceding for you change the way you approach God and pray for others?

9. **Becoming a People of Intercession** The sermon challenged us to identify our own “Sodom”—a person, group, or community we may have quietly written off. Who might God be calling you to intercede for, and what would it look like to begin praying for them consistently and specifically?

10. **Close in Prayer**