SMALL GROUP GUIDE FOR NOV 7, 2026
"Making a Difference in This World"

Genesis 23-24 and Matthew 5:14-16

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Patterns in Scripture Are Intentional
2. Context and Culture Unlock Scripture
3. Messianic Faith as a Bridge
4. You Are the Light

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In Genesis 23, Abraham insists on paying full price for the burial cave rather than accepting it as a gift. Why do you think that mattered so much to him, and what does it tell us about integrity and public witness?

2. The family of Rebekah tried to delay her journey, but she insisted on going. What does her decisiveness reveal about her character, and what can we take from it personally?

3. The pastor described the recurring biblical pattern of "the first shall be last." Can you identify other examples from Scripture beyond the ones mentioned? Why do you think God seems to consistently work this way?

4. The message makes a distinction between reading the Bible through a Greco-Roman interpretive lens versus an ancient Hebraic one. In your own experience, have you encountered teachings that seemed to conflict with Scripture once you looked more closely at the original context? How did you process that?

5. The pastor briefly addressed penal substitutionary atonement and how it differs from what the Torah's sacrificial system actually teaches. This can be a challenging topic. What questions does it raise for you, and how do you approach re-examining doctrines you were raised with?

6. The message describes the Messianic movement as a bridge, but also acknowledges that most people will stay safely on one side of the chasm rather than cross it. What makes the bridge "precarious," and what would it cost someone personally to walk it?

7. The pastor says that when people walk away from Yeshua, it may sometimes be because the Messiah being presented does not resemble the Yeshua of the Bible. Do you agree with that assessment? Have you seen it play out in your own circles?

8. In ancient thought, “light” is revelation, truth, presence, and clarity that disperses confusion and fear. In your own life right now, where do you most need that kind of light? Where are you being called to bring it to others?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- Study the Pattern. Go back through the Bible and identify at least two or three additional examples of the "first shall be last" pattern.

- Examine a Doctrine. Pick one teaching you have held for a long time and spend time this week researching its historical and biblical origins. Ask yourself whether it holds up in the context and culture of the original hearers.