

Small Group Discussion Guide

"What Does God Expect from You?" - Genesis Study Week 3

November 8, 2025

This week's message explores Abraham's character through three key narratives: his hospitality to the three visitors, his intercession for Sodom and Gomorrah, and his contrasting treatment of Hagar/Ishmael versus Isaac. The central message reveals that God expects us to practice justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him—but this requires consistency, empathy, and awareness of His presence in everyday life.

Key Takeaways

1. God often reveals Himself in ordinary moments when we 'lift up our eyes'
2. ****Hospitality and compassion should be consistent****, not selective
3. ****God uses our experiences to develop empathy**** and understanding
4. ****Justice and mercy must work together**** in how we treat others
5. Even flawed people can be used by God when they remain available to Him

Part 1: Seeing God in Everyday Life

1. ****Genesis 18:1-2**** - Abraham noticed God when he "lifted up his eyes." What distracts you from noticing God's presence in your daily routine?
2. The message mentioned Moses, the disciples fishing, and others encountering God during ordinary activities. When have you experienced God in an unexpected, everyday moment?
3. How might intentionally unplugging from technology and social media help us become more aware of God's presence?

Part 2: The Heart of Hospitality

4. Abraham went from offering "a little water and bread" to preparing a feast for his visitors. What does this teach us about generosity? When have you been blessed by going beyond the minimum?

5. Compare Abraham's lavish hospitality to the three visitors with his minimal provision for Hagar and Ishmael (bread and water on her shoulder). Why do you think Abraham was inconsistent?
6. Who are the "Hagars" in our communities today—people we might overlook or treat with less compassion than others? How can we become more consistent in showing hospitality?

Part 3: Intercession and Empathy

7. ****Genesis 18:22-33**** - Abraham boldly negotiated with God over Sodom and Gomorrah, bargaining down from 50 to 10 righteous people. What does this conversation reveal about:

- Abraham's character? - God's willingness to dialogue with us? - The power of intercession?

8. The message suggests that Abraham needed to experience the potential loss of Isaac to understand Hagar's pain. How has God used difficult experiences in your life to develop empathy for others?

9. Why do you think Abraham stopped at 10 righteous people instead of continuing to negotiate? What does this teach us about community transformation?

Part 4: Justice, Mercy, and Walking Humbly (15 minutes)

10. ****Micah 6:8**** summarizes God's expectations: "practice justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God." Which of these three comes most naturally to you? Which is most challenging?

11. The message noted that Sodom and Gomorrah's core sin was self-centeredness, which led to other sins. How does self-centeredness show up in our culture today? In our own lives?

12. Yeshua said it would be "more bearable" for Sodom on Judgment Day than for Capernaum because Capernaum had greater revelation. How does this principle apply to us who have Scripture, community, and the Holy Spirit?

This Week's Challenge (Choose 1-2)

*****Option 1: Practice "Lifting Up Your Eyes"*****

- Set aside 15 minutes each day to sit quietly without devices
- Ask God to make you aware of His presence
- Journal about what you notice

*****Option 2: Consistent Compassion Audit*****

- Reflect on whether you show hospitality and kindness consistently or selectively
- Identify one person or group you tend to overlook
- Take one concrete action to show them genuine care this week

*****Option 3: Intercessory Prayer*****

- Like Abraham, intercede for your community, city, or nation
- Spend time asking God to spare and transform places that seem far from Him
- Pray specifically for 10 people you know who don't yet follow Jesus

*****Option 4: Empathy Exercise*****

- Think of someone whose experience or pain you don't fully understand
- Research their situation or ask to hear their story
- Ask God how He wants you to respond with both justice and mercy

Reflection Questions for Personal Study

1. Abraham was "nowhere near perfect" yet God chose him. What does this reveal about God's grace and your own availability to be used by Him?
2. The message asks: "Which takes more faith—noticing God in the miraculous or in the ordinary?" How would you answer?
3. In what area of your life might God be asking you to show more consistency between what you believe and how you act?