

# **PROJECT 4:4**

## **Journey Group Discussion Guide**

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**January**



January 3, 2012

Genesis 6:9 - 8:19

Pages 12-14

General discussion from this weeks reading:

- What did you learn about God in these passages?
- What did you learn about people in these passages?
- How will you integrate these things in your life?

Specific discussion:

Opening thought

Do you have something so valuable that you would risk significant injury to rescue it? Are you more likely to risk injury (or even death) to rescue *someone*? Why?

Discuss

*Have someone in the group read the text in the shaded box on page 12 of The Daily Bible.*

As you read the account of Noah and the flood, did anything stand out to you as especially significant?

Considering that it likely took Noah decades to build the ark as God instructed, what lesson can we learn from this about faith and perseverance? Tell about a time in your life when you persevered in faith and obedience to God. What impact did that time of your life have on your faith?

What does the destruction of the earth tell us of God's justice? What does His plan to save Noah tell us of His grace? Why is justice so important in God's character?

God gave Noah the ark to save him from the coming destruction. He's given us Jesus as our means of rescue. Who do you know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus so they can be rescued? What can you do to share Jesus with them?

January 9, 2012

Genesis 22:1 - 19

Pages 44 - 45

General discussion from this weeks reading:

- What did you learn about God in these passages?
- What did you learn about people in these passages?
- How will you integrate these things in your life?

Specific discussion:

Opening thoughts

Tell about a time that you gave up something very valuable to you.

In this account of Abraham's life, God actually asks him to sacrifice his son, Isaac (sounds crazy, right??). Think of your own kids (or closest family member). Can you imagine any situation where you would willingly participate in their death?

Discuss

Verse 3 tells us that Abraham took action to obey God the very next day. What can we learn from Abraham's immediate obedience to God's command?

In verses 9-14, God says that Abraham's obedience was based on his fear of God. Some people don't like the idea of fearing God. On what basis should we have a fear of God? How does fearing God effect our obedience to Him? In what ways does Jesus take away some of our fear of God?

We all want God's blessings. Notice that Abraham was provided for and blessed *after* he showed himself obedient to God's command. What does this teach us about obedience and God's blessings?

Reflection: Is there any disobedience in my life that is holding back God's blessings? How can I move toward obedience in this area?

January 19, 2012

Genesis 42:6 - 45:18

Pages 82 - 87

General discussion from this weeks reading:

- What did you learn about God in these passages?
- What did you learn about people in these passages?
- How will you integrate these things in your life?

Specific discussion:

Opening Thought

Tell about a time that you didn't know all that was going on, but the person(s) in charge (parents, boss, teacher, etc.) understood the bigger picture.

Discuss

Review the story of Joseph leading up to this point in his life.

Put yourself in Joseph's place (experiences, power, etc.). How do you think you would respond to seeing your brothers walk into the room?

How is Joseph's dream in Genesis 37:5-8 (page 74) fulfilled in this account?

What does this fulfillment tell us about God's work in Joseph's life?

In 45:4-8, Joseph goes as far to say that God *sent* him to Egypt (and therefore into slavery and prison) as part of His plan. How does our culture of pain avoidance hinder us from looking at life like Joseph did?

Share about a time in your life that you could see God at work in the pain or suffering?

Reflection: When we rush to eliminate the pain in our lives, we are not trusting God to work through that pain to bring good to us or others. Examine your heart. Are you able to embrace pain, trusting God to bring good out of it? How can we develop greater trust in God?

January 26, 2012

Exodus 14:1 - 15:18

Pages 114 - 117

General discussion from this weeks reading:

- What did you learn about God in these passages?
- What did you learn about people in these passages?
- How will you integrate these things in your life?

Specific discussion:

Opening Thought

Describe a life lesson you learned from a family member and how it impacted you.

Discuss

Considering that the Israelites spent generations as slaves in Egypt, they likely knew more about the gods of Egypt than the God of Abraham. What do you think they would need to learn about God as He takes them out of Egypt?

According to Exodus 14:1-4, what does God want to gain from His plan to deal with Pharaoh? What will this also teach the Israelites about their God?

In Exodus 14:10-14, Moses tells the people that God will fight for them and they "need only to be still." How does God make good on this promise as the situation unfolds?

Notice what the Israelites praise God for in the *Song of Moses* in Exodus 15:1-18. What did this experience teach them about God? How will these lessons help them follow God in the future?

Reflection: Like the Israelites, we have so much to learn about God and His ways. What has God taught you about Himself in the recent or distant past? What is He currently teaching you?