

Unexpected (1 of 4) Small Group Discussion Questions

SUNDAY WORSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The global pandemic COVID-19 has forced us to adjust and adapt how we do church and stay connected to one another as a congregation. We're not closed as a church, we're just doing church differently! So, please stay connected to the body at Grantham Church. Join our congregation for worship online at 10:30 am each Sunday morning. Follow the worship liturgy and watch our [Vimeo](#) videos at granthamchurch.org/liturgy.

As usual, the sermons will be posted to the [recent sermons page](#) on our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for engaging with us online!

Sunday, November 29th 2020



Sermon Title: Expect the Unexpected

Scripture Reading: Genesis 12:1-5; 15:4-5; 16:1-4; 21:1-5; 22:1-2, 15-18

Sermon Focus: God's redemptive plan begins with a call for one man to leave the familiar so that he can bless the world through his offspring. Ultimately, it's through this nation that God will save the world through Jesus the Messiah. Abraham and Sarah were not perfect, but they were people of faith. Listen as Pastor David invites us to believe in the God who meets us where we are and blesses our messy lives.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call! Use the following questions to guide your small group discussion:

1. God's redemptive plan begins with a call for one man and his family to leave the familiar so that he can bless the world through his offspring (Gen 12:1-4). Have you ever noticed how it's often necessary for us to "move" or have a change in situation and circumstances in order for God to do a new thing in our lives? Why do you think that is? Share how have you experienced this in your own life.
2. Abraham and Sarah were not perfect by any means. Twice Abraham lied to kings about his relationship to his wife. He also thought it wasn't a bad idea to sleep with Sarah's maidservant. And Sarah laughed in disbelief when she was told she would have a child in her old age. It's easy to look down on biblical characters for their mistakes instead of seeing ourselves in them. What does it say about God that he graciously meets us where we are and works with us? How has God worked in your life despite your mistakes and poor decisions?
3. Abraham and Sarah were told by God that he would bless them with offspring. Have you ever believed that God made you a promise or revealed something that would happen but then you had to wait? Pastor David shared how he experienced this with his calling into ministry. Share an experience of your own.
4. Abraham and Sarah both tried to make something happen when Sarah couldn't get pregnant, instead of waiting for God to provide. Can you relate? Surely there are times when we hear a word from God and should wait on him, and then there are other times that we should act. How can we know the difference?
5. God tests Abraham's faith in Genesis 22:1-19. God commands Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac on Mt. Moriah. The idea of testing may seem cruel to us. Check out this video about testing from *The Bible Project* on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sR4AT0LMJ5c> Testing might be cruel if the intent is to trap us or cause us to fail. But as we can see in the Bible, a good God *always* tests us in order to build our faith in him, not to fail. Recall all of the ways people were tested in the Bible. Now read James 1:2-18 together.
6. How has God used the events of this year to test you and your faith? How have you responded to the test? Remember, the year is not over! How might God want you to use the remaining days this year to grow you in your faith?