

# GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

Guest Speaker: Dan Stolebarger  
Abraham  
Discussion Questions

June 13, 2004

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## Abraham - Discussion Questions

### 1. Announcements

- a. **Married Couples Retreat** - It is official, the Rock Marriage Retreat is coming on July 9-11. The cost will be \$250 Per Couple. Please Register Sunday at the Married Couples table, or visit the website at: <http://www.therocksandiego.org/marriageretreat>
- b. **Small Group Training** - Please plan to attend the next Small group training on June 27<sup>th</sup>. This is for anyone who is considering stepping up into a Facilitator, Apprentice or Host position in the Small Group ministry.
- c. **Sunday Altar Call** - As you may have noticed, many people have come forward over the past couple of weeks. As a Facilitator, we may need you to help counsel or pray with people. If you are unsure about what this entails, we have attached a quick summary of Altar Call training. Please read this document, and come forward to help when needed. This is one of the most important aspects of our church.
- d. **Are you being called to full time ministry?** The Rock is looking to grow the Small Group staff. Send your resume to [melissak@therocksandiego.org](mailto:melissak@therocksandiego.org).
- e. **Men's BBQ and Paintball.** Saturday June 26 at 25 Browns Road in Alpine. Cost will be \$25 for BBQ and Paintball. Sign up at Men's Table on Sunday or contact Kevin Rachford for more information: 619-226-7625 EXT: 321 OR [kevin@rachford.us](mailto:kevin@rachford.us)
- f. **2004 Women's Retreat.** August 13-15, 2004 at Murrieta Hot Springs with Guest Speaker, Judy Hampton. The cost will be \$150 for the weekend. REGISTRATION IN MINISTRY ALLEY EVERY SUNDAY! If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please contact Tammi Gastineau at [tammi@webelement.ws](mailto:tammi@webelement.ws) or Julie Gross at [julie.gross@pfizer.com](mailto:julie.gross@pfizer.com)
- g. **The Rock Academy Remodel project** - We are going to remodel the entryway, two bathrooms and paint some classrooms at the Rock Academy on June 14-19. How do you see yourself getting involved? We need labor and materials. Contractors, plumbers, painters, carpet or tile layers, willing servants. Any help will be appreciated by the kids and parents. If you wish to assist that week, please email or call Richard Andujo: [richarda@therockacademy.org](mailto:richarda@therockacademy.org) or call 858.945.6043.
- h. **Moms at Home Ministry - Family Day** - 2nd Annual Family Barbecue! Saturday June 26 at Crown Point, starts at 10:00am. Food will be Potluck style (bring your own meat). Please RSVP to 619-226-7625 X313 or 619-726-9921.

### 2. Memory Verse

**Genesis 12:3** "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

### 3. Discussion Questions

- 1) **Something to consider before you start your small group.**
  - a) Do you believe that the God of the universe has gathered together everyone in your group for a specific purpose right now?
  - b) Do you believe that God has a specific word for you right now?
    - 1) As a group, discuss your reasoning's for getting together each week? What are your goals in meeting?
  - c) If you believe these two things, how can you go from being a "hear-er" to a "do-er"? (**James 1:21-23**)



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- 2) In **James 2:23**, it is written that Abraham was a friend of God.
  - a) Discuss what it would mean for Abraham to be a friend of God.
  - b) What does it look like today, for you to be a friend of God?
- 3) In **Acts 7:2-7**, we read about the call of Abraham.
  - a) Acts 7:2-4 - Abraham lived in the Land (UR) of the Caldeans which translates into the "Flame of Destruction" in Hebrew.
    - 1) Define the word dwelling. Where are you dwelling right now? Are you in a place that could be considered the flame of destruction?
  - b) Then God appeared to Abraham and told him to go to a land that He would show him. He left Ur of the Caldeans and dwelt in Haran, which translates into parched or desolate in the Hebrew. The text goes on to say that he waited there until his father, whose name translates into "to delay", dies. (**Gen 12:1**)
    - 1) When God tells you to get out of the flame of destruction, where will you go? Abraham appears to only go half way to the Promised Land, why? In our lives, do we do the same thing, start to follow God, but stop half way?
    - 2) How do we know when it is God that is speaking to us?
      - a) Can you write down what you are hearing? (**Habakkuk 2:2**)
      - b) Does it line up with Scripture? (**Hebrews 13:8** - God is the same, he would never tell you anything contrary to His word)
      - c) Remember the following Shared Attributes of God when praying about something that you believe may be from God. God will never tell you to do anything that does not line up with the scriptures below.
        - i. God is absolutely holy and separate from any evil (**Isaiah 6:3; 1 John 1:5**)
        - ii. God alone is perfectly good and loving, and He alone is the source for all goodness and love (**John 3:16; 1 John 4:8-16**)
        - iii. God is the source and embodiment of all truth (**Numbers 23:19; John 17:17**)
        - iv. God does not confirm to the standard of right and wrong, but right and wrong flow out of His character. (**Gen 18:25; Deut 32:4**)
        - v. God is full of Mercy (**Ephesians 2:4-7; Titus 3:5**)
- 4) Discuss Abrahams top ten.
  - a) Abraham left everything he knew in obedience to the Lord.
    - 1) Are you willing to do this today, in obedience to God?
  - b) Abraham offered his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice to the Lord.
    - 1) Isaac was the promised son given by God. Are you willing to give back something that was promised, then given by God?
  - c) Abraham was circumcised as a grown man.
    - 1) Abraham believed God, and was willing to be obedient.
  - d) Abraham went after Lot.
    - 1) Lot chose to go and live in Sodom. Even though he went there on his own accord, Abraham still went after him to save him from the impending destruction. Are you willing to reach out and save someone in the same situation?
  - e) Abraham negotiated with God for the sake of Sodom.
    - 1) Just like the previous question, Abraham attempted to intercede on behalf of the city of Sodom. Who are you interceding for?
  - f) Abraham tithed to Melchizedek.
    - 1) Are you tithing?



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- g) Abraham allowed Lot to choose his portion of land.
  - 1) Assume that God promised you something incredible. Are you willing to allow someone else to decide how much of God's promise you will have?
- h) Abraham lived in temporary tents and built lasting altars to God.
  - 1) Are you building things that will stand up over time (Kingdom things), or are you building things that will burn (wood, hay and stubble)?
- i) Abraham waited 100 years for a chosen son to carry his name.
  - 1) Are you willing to wait for God's blessing?
- j) Abraham paid full price for a plot to bury his wife.
  - 1) Even though God had promised Abraham the land, he still had to pay full price for it. What can we learn from this today?

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### Altar Call Training for Facilitators

**Why** are They Coming Forward? (So you can help them SPECIFICALLY)

First Step:

1. Introduce Yourself
2. Questions To Ask
  - a. Why did you come forward today/tonight?
  - b. What is your decision?

Depending on their response you need to be **crystal clear** if they are trusting in Jesus Christ or not. Asking them if they are a Christian, saved, ect... means nothing. Whatever way is best for you to find out if they are trusting in Jesus is your first step of how to help them.

If they just **received Christ** do not assume they know what they just did. Many are very emotional and really do not understand the salvation message and the cost of following Christ. Explain it to them very clearly!

Please give them:

- 21-Jump: inside is foundation flier and response card. Please push foundation class.
- Fill out response card front and back!

If you are sure they are saved then proceed to help them with **rededication** by:

- Stating that most Christians are living the Christian life in their own energy/effort/ability. (Gal 2:20)
- **Results:** Frustration, lack of joy, discouragement, defeated lives and walking away from the Lord.
- **Need:** to live constantly in the power of the Holy Spirit by:
  1. Reading the Word: If they are not in the Bible regularly or don't know what to do. Give them the Closer Walk (one table) and suggest them to order it every month.
  2. Prayer
  3. Fellowship: recommend a small group and 100 or covenant class  
All small group directories and class info on table

If they came forward for **prayer**

LISTEN to the prayer request. Many times you can do more than just pray for them:

- Give encouraging Bible Scriptures to their situation.
- Encourage them that they need accountability and others to pray for them specifically. Recommend a small group. Give them a directory!
- If they are not in the Bible regularly or don't know what to do. Give them the Closer Walk and suggest them to order it every month.

**YOU DON'T NEED TO FILL OUT RESPONSE CARD UNLESS THEY NEED SOMETHING SPECIFICALLY.**

1. When do I come forward during the service to help?
  - If you see a bunch of people up there please come forward BEFORE he prays so you can be ready when people come back.
2. **Grab a lanyard**, they are on the table, so the leaders and the body can identify you as a helper. Also walk to the people do not wait for them to come to you. Introduce yourself!!
3. Always **have a 21-Jump start** in your possession. In the book will be a response card and foundation info.
4. **Guys with guys** and **girls with girls** WHENEVER possible please.
5. Put all response cards in the box located on the table.

