

R  N  
are you in?

**LifeGroups**  
get connected.

# TRANSFORMATION

*"And we... are being transformed into His likeness."*

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

## CHETS TOP 5

Volunteer  
Celebration  
Tonight • 6:00 p.m.

Vacation Bible  
School  
Registration  
June 20th - 23rd  
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

First Global Day of  
Prayer  
Today • 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Children's Camp  
Meeting  
Today • 12:15 p.m.

Beach Baptism  
June 27th - 6:00 p.m.



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**Volume XI No. 19**

## Discussion Guide

### Life Sentences - "Promise"

**FOCUS: to examine the promise God gave to Abram and be challenged to step into "unknown territory" like Abram to enjoy the promises of God.**

*"1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."* **Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV)**

1. What sacrifices would God call Abram to make in (Genesis 12:1)?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
2. Who are examples of Christians today who make similar sacrifices?
3. Have you ever followed the Lord's command to "go" and stepped into unknown territory? If so, what happened?
4. Have you ever avoided God's call to step into an "unknown territory?" If so, what happened?
5. Notice each step of Abram's journey took greater and greater sacrifices. Are you willing to sacrifice to experience God's promises? What/how?
6. Outline the promises and blessings the Lord shared with Abram in (vs. 1-3).
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
  - f.
  - g.
7. What did God's refreshed plan through Abram involve?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
8. How would God's plan of blessing ultimately be fulfilled?
  - a. (Luke 22:20)
  - b. (Galatians 3:8)
  - c. (Hebrews 12:22-24)
9. How would Abram respond to God when God promised his descendants the land? (12:7)
10. How often do you thank God for the many blessings He has given you? When can you set aside time to do so?

## Read Thru the Bible

*"How sweet your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey. Your commandments give me understanding; no wonder I hate every false way of life. Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."*

Psalm 119:103-105

May	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalm	Proverbs
23	1 Samuel 17:1-58	John 6:1-21	65:1-8	14:10-12
24	1 Samuel 18:1-19:24	John 6:22-40	65:9-13	14:13-14
25	1 Samuel 20:1-21:15	John 6:41-59	66:1-7	14:15-16
26	1 Samuel 22:1-23:29	John 6:60-7:9	66:8-15	14:17-19
27	1 Samuel 24:1-25:44	John 7:10-30	66:16-20	14:20-22
28	1 Samuel 26:1-28:25	John 7:31-53	67:1-7	14:23-25
29	1 Samuel 29:1-31:13	John 8:1-20	68:1-6	14:26-28
30	2 Samuel 1:1-2:32	John 8:21-41	68:7-14	14:29-30

### LifeGroup Prayer Requests:

*"You are not responsible for everyone in the church family - but you are responsible to them. So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind."*

1 Thessalonians 5:11

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## LOOKING TOWARD NEXT SUNDAY

### Forgiveness - Genesis 50:15-26

*To challenge the learner to forgive others with faith in God's sovereignty and the power of God's Spirit.*

### MONDAY - MAY 24, 2010

#### Read Psalm 103:1-22

*1 Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. 2 Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits- 3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, 5 who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. 6 The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. 7 He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel: 8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. 9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; (not all verses printed due to space)*

- Most people struggle with truly experiencing God's forgiveness. Why do you think that is true?
- Perhaps people think that they have done so many bad things that even God couldn't forgive them. Even if we could be forgiven, some may think, "Who could ever forget the things we have done?" With people that may be true, but with God those fears are not well founded.
- How does verse 12 speak about how we are to accept God's forgiveness (and the idea of forgetting)?
- Think about or write down some things in which you have a hard time accepting God's forgiveness.
- Say verse 12 and substitute that sin in place of "our sin" and claim God's forgiveness.

## TUESDAY - MAY 25, 2010

### Read Matthew 6:9-15; Ephesians 4:32

*9"This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11Give us today our daily bread. 12Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.[a]' 14For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

*32Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

- We can get stuck in the process of Christ-like maturity by either not forgiving ourselves or not forgiving others. The degree to which you extend forgiveness to others is the degree to which you will experience God's forgiveness (verse 15). What is the source of our forgiveness according to Eph 4:32?
- What does that verse say about Christ's view of you in forgiveness?
- Does Christ's view extend to others in the same way that it extends to you?
- Ask Christ to give you His view toward others and be willing to extend forgiveness toward someone you have not forgiven.

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## WEDNESDAY - MAY 26, 2010

### Read Luke 6:27-36

*27"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. 30Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31Do to others as you would have them do to you. 32"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. 33And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. 34And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. 35But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.*

- Wow, another challenging teaching to apply in our lives. What character traits would describe a person who behaves this way toward others?
- Which of these seem most difficult to you? Which are the easiest to apply for you?
- What role do feelings have?
- If you applied these commands by faith, how might your feelings change?
- Ask God to help you love, forgive, give to, and pray for someone who is your enemy.

## THURSDAY - MAY 27, 2010

### Read Revelation 22:1-5; Matthew 5:23-24

*1Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.*

*23"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.*

- Extending and experiencing forgiveness is a key to overcoming our sinful, broken relationships. God's ultimate plan involves our complete healing. How does John explain the reality of that ultimate restoration?
- We still need to work toward healing the brokenness right now. How does Christ instruct us to do so?
- To whom do you need to go to and seek repair and restoration?

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## FRIDAY - MAY 28, 2010

### Read Genesis 50:15-26

*15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" 16 So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 17 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. 18 His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. 19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. 21 So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them. 22 Joseph stayed in Egypt, along with all his father's family. He lived a hundred and ten years 23 and saw the third generation of Ephraim's children. Also the children of Makir son of Manasseh were placed at birth on Joseph's knees. 24 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." 25 And Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath and said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place." 26 So Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten. And after they embalmed him, he was placed in a coffin in Egypt.*

- What were the emotions and thoughts of Joseph's brothers in verse 15?
- Why did Joseph weep in verse 17?
- Who did Joseph trust to judge his brothers in verse 19?
- Did his brothers experience Joseph's forgiveness?
- God hands us forgiveness that is just as complete, but we need to believe it, and then live in it. Only then can we experience the freedom he offers. Believe in God's forgiveness so that you may live in the peace that God wants you to enjoy.