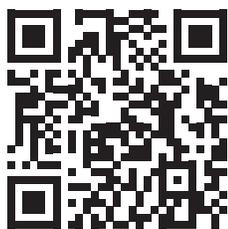




START HERE
GOD BEFRIENDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Leader, please make these available to your group.



sign up page

WOMENS BIBLE STUDY

Sign ups are open for a new study in the book of JUDE with Jackie Hill Perry. The Study begins on Jan 25 Tuesdays at 9am or 7pm

MENS BIBLE STUDY

Sign ups are open for a new study called Authentic Manhood. The Study begins on Feb 8 Tuesdays at 7pm

EPHESIANS 5:14

Pastor Derek has instructed all of us to make time either at 5:14 am or pm to focus on the Scripture, Ephesians 5:14. Discuss in your home group ways that you can incorporate that practice into your daily lives and even maybe a way for your home groups to do something together at 5:14?



START HERE

GOD BEFRIENDS

Week 22 | As He Has Spoken | Genesis 21:1-7

GOD WILL TAKE IT OUT OF YOUR HANDS SO YOU WILL KNOW IT WAS DONE BY HIS HANDS

As a pastor, if I had a dollar for every time someone promised something but ultimately never came through, well let's just say we would be able to fund a lot of ministries! I've learned to take the promises of people with a grain of salt. And by the way, that phrase is believed to have originated with Pliny the elder, who supposedly discovered that taking a grain of salt was an antidote to poison. In other words, the injurious results of something could be moderated by a grain of salt. In regards to the promises of people, you guard your heart from the potential failed promises by not completely believing it to begin with. But that's not the way it works with God's promises. You see, while people regularly fail their promises, God never will. This was a lesson that Sarah and Abraham learned over the course of time. God comes through in His time, His answered promises produce joy, and His promises are always a function of His grace towards us!

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



PRAY (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time to remind each other of how faithful God has been. Share specific examples that you see in each other's lives.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. God showed Abraham and Sarah that He wasn't in a hurry to fulfill His promise. He knew exactly when and how the promise would come to pass. Meditate on that fact, that God isn't in a hurry. He's never impatiently working to get something done.

How does that impact you and how you live your life? Are there areas of impatience or hurry that you need to place in God's hands and trust Him with? Explain these areas and how you will make application.

Finish this sentence, "If God is not in a hurry, then I _____."

2. Abraham and Sarah named the son of promise, Isaac, which means laughter. The fulfilled promise had brought them joy. It's important when God fulfills a promise that we mark that moment, like the children of Israel did by building stones of remembrance or memorial stones (Joshua 4:1-7). It was a memorial to God's faithfulness that generated joy in the hearts of the people.

Look back on your life and identify key areas of God's fulfilled promises and faithfulness. Creatively consider how you can create a memorial for that moment to encourage you when times get difficult.

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, To the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.

Psalm 30:11-12

3. God will often take desires or dreams out of our hands by making them impossible for you to fulfill. You can find yourself wrestling with God for control but ultimately the miracle will only come **through Him**. **Are there situations like that in your life? According to the teaching there are at least two things that God is seeking to accomplish. What are those things and how do they apply to your life?**

One thing that you can count on is that God will always do what He says He will do.



WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

2 Corinthians 6:2

For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you."



REACH (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, pick an area in your life where you need to stand on something God has said. You need to commit it back into His hands, and trust in His timing.

We will be waiting with anticipation to see and hear how God blessed your heart as you stood in His faithfulness, and how He demonstrated His faithfulness.