

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

# Family ...why bother?

### OPENING UP



Have you ever made a big decision that impacted your entire family—positively or negatively? If so, what was that situation like?

### TEXT



#### The Trouble of Not Trusting | Genesis 12:10–20

10 Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. 11 When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, “I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, 12 and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. 13 Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake.” 14 When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. 15 And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house. 16 And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

17 But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife. 18 So Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? 19 Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife; take her, and go.” 20 And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.

### MESSAGE OUTLINE



**Big Idea: Our households face serious trouble when we fail to trust God’s promises.**

1. We dishonor others through deception. (vv. 10-13)
2. We act in self-interest for personal gain. (vv. 14-16)
3. We inflict harm instead of bringing blessing. (vv. 17-20)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. Like Abraham didn't believe God would keep him safe on his journey, where has failure to believe the good news impacted your family and life?
2. How does deception create dishonor in our relationships with others in our household? Why is telling the truth important?
3. Where are you inclined to live for self-interest instead of sacrifice for your family? How can you repent and believe the good news?
4. How might your household and community be blessed this week by you taking steps of faith and trust in God in all your life?
5. Where have you been failing to believe the gospel in your household lately? How can you see the grace of God, repent, and grow in trusting God's promises?

## LIFE CHALLENGE



Discovering that our decisions impact the world around us can be an overwhelming task—which is why we need God's grace to grow. But even in our struggle to trust, we know can know that (in every situation) God remains faithful! Think about your own life: where has a lack of trust impacted a relationship you have? Take some time to identify those places—and seek out reconciliation and restoration. Especially, ask the Lord to help you be a person who walks firmly in his promises and, as such, lives as a blessing to those around.

## CLOSING PRAYER



Lord, thank you for loving me—even when I don't trust you with the details of my life. Please, forgive those areas where I still lack faith in your goodness and promises. Help me to stand firm on your faithfulness, led by your Holy Spirit through every step I take. Since you are unshakable and true, help me to stand firm on you and you alone. —So that Christ might be exalted in my heart and life. Amen!