

## STUDENT STUDY GUIDE: WEEK TWO // GENESIS 12-50

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### KEY UNDERSTANDING OBJECTIVES

1. The covenant promises of God to Abraham/Isaac/Jacob.
  2. God chooses the unqualified to partner with Him in His plans
  3. God's plans cannot be thwarted
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### *[1. The covenant promises of God]*

#### Observe

1. Read 12:1-4
2. Use your coloured pencils to underline the 'Who/ Where/ When/ What/ Why/ How' in the passage.

#### Understand

1. What things does God promise to Abram in this covenant?
2. Put yourself in Abram's shoes. At this point he is settled in Haran with his family.
  - What do you think it might have been like for Abram to be promised these things?
  - What questions do you think he would have had?
  - Can you imagine what his conversation with his wife, Sarai, would have been like?
3. What was his response? What does this show you about Abram's character and trust in God?

#### Apply

1. Is there an encouragement you can take away from Abram's story?
2. How can that apply to your life?

#### For those who want to explore further...

The covenant promise God gave to Abraham was passed down through Abraham's offspring to his son, Isaac, and grandson, Jacob. Search the scriptures to find the points where God confirms His covenant with Isaac and Jacob.

- Compare the wording of the promises from God - what are the similarities and differences?
- What are the responses from Isaac and Jacob after God speaks to them?
- From your own understanding of the Biblical narrative, how does God fulfill His promises to Abraham/Isaac/Jacob?

**[2. God chooses the unqualified]**

Choose one of the following people and read about their story in Genesis, taking notes about their character in the table below.

- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob
- Joseph

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| <b>CHARACTER:</b>  |
| <b>Strengths/Accomplishments</b>                             |
| <b>Weaknesses/Mistakes</b>                                   |
| <b>What was their relationship with God like?</b>            |
| <b>In what ways did they demonstrate their faith in God?</b> |

**What lessons can we learn from their life?**

**[3. God's plans can't be thwarted]**

**Observe & Understand**

Read the following two examples of scripture and take note of what happened in the stories that could have disrupted God's plans:

- Abraham and Sarah - Genesis 16
- Joseph accused and put in prison - Genesis 39

1. What was God's plans for these people?
2. What happened in the story that could have disrupted God's plans?
3. Who was responsible for these 'detours' in God's plans?
4. How does God turn these circumstances around to accomplish His purposes?
  - Abraham and Sarah - see Genesis 21:1-2; 17-21
  - Joseph - see Genesis 39:22-23; 41:9-14; 41:41

**Apply**

These are only two examples of how God's plans and purposes are not thwarted by mankind's attempts or circumstances, but there are many other examples throughout the book of Genesis alone that support this.

- What do these examples show you about who God is and what He is able to do?
- What does it mean in your life that God's plans can't be thwarted?

We see the same principle in the New Testament scripture, Romans 8:28.

*Romans 8:28 [ESV]*

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.*

Do you have your own testimony of God working things together for YOUR good?