

Small Group Lesson and Bible Study for Week of March 1, 2010

Getting to Know You

1. Who gets the remote at your house?
2. Ever lost the remote? Where is the strangest place you have found it?
3. If your life had a remote control, what button would you most like to press today?

Getting into the Scripture (Genesis 15: 1-18)

1. Abram and Sarai were willing to step into God's plan for their lives. Their "episode" with God begins in Genesis 12. Tell the others in the group when your "episode" with God began. Any "to be continued" or "re-runs" since it began? Maybe you are still testing the "pilot episode" with God. That's OK to admit. Just be honest.
2. As your story unfolds, do you tend to try to take the remote control away from God? Explain in your own words how Abram and Sarai did this in Chapter 16.
3. There is another pretty important story like this one. Try reading Genesis 3 and listing out some similarities to the Abram and Sarai story. What do you discover about human nature? Does this teach you anything about yourself?
4. It seems like both Abram and Sarai struggle when they spend too much time on REWIND. Abram seems to put his life on PAUSE and Sarai seems to FAST FORWARD. Which one sounds more like your tendency?
5. The consequences of the FAST FORWARD are pretty devastating in Genesis 16: 4-6. Describe how you understand that actions always have consequences. What implications does this truth have for our "episodes" or experiences with God?
6. Someone in the group describe Picture in Picture or "PIP". If we had this button on our life remote, what pictures would we be watching? What pictures should we be watching?
7. If we should be watching the story of God in our PIP, how can we do this? What or where is God's story? How can we keep an eye on it?

@ the End of the Day

1. Take turns sharing success and struggles with Bible reading, or "getting to know God's story" among your group. Make an agreement together to renew your efforts at hearing God through his word.
2. Have a prayer together and ask God for a new touch and a renewed episode with Him.

Who's got control of the remote at your house? [Happy Pony Commercial]

Who's got control of the remote of your life?

Question: "The most worn out button on my "life remote" is? (play –on all the time, pause—stuck here, rewind—can't get out of the past, fast forward – way ahead of God)

(Genesis 15, Abram and Sarai had some remote control issues)

I. The Right Episode

- Gen 12, God called and Abram obeyed
- God made a huge promise [great nation, many descendents]

II. Wrong Buttons

- Years pass between Gen. 12 and 15
- Abram is discouraged, maybe even disgruntled (15:2-3)
- He has been working the "RR" button
- It has led to a great big "PAUSE" [Huge issue for us today!]

III. New Episode

- God re-affirms his promise
- This time a covenant [describe the severity]
- Chapter 15 ends with Abram on "PLAY" again

IV. Sarai's Episode

- On the heels of Abram's obedience, Sarai struggles
- Starts working the "RR" button
- Instead of "PAUSE" she goes to "FF"
- Abram agrees, and they get way ahead of God (16: 1-6)
- The consequences are terrible [actions have consequences] [prison revivals]

V. Our Episode

- Are we "PLAY" with God's selected episode? [Who's got remote control of your life?]
- Are we on "PAUSE"? ["not now God, later"]
- Are we "RR"? ["can't forgive, can't forget"]
- Are we "FF"? ["can't wait any longer, I'll handle this..."]
- Have we just changed the channel? ["forget it. I can't do it anyway"]

Close: Can I invite you to another very important button on your remote?

PIP – Picture in Picture. Abram lacked this. The ability to view your episode while keeping an eye on something else important. Involved in your episode with God, but with an eye on his plan, his story, your place in his plan.

Remote Control?

Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18

Who's got control of the remote at your house?

Who's got control of the remote of your life?

Question: "The most worn out button on my 'life remote' is?"

PLAY—"on all the time..."

PAUSE—"stuck here..."

REWIND—"can't get out of the past..."

FAST FORWARD—"way ahead of God..."

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