**Chapter 2: God builds a nation**

**Icebreaker Question**: Share a time when someone important in your life made a promise to you and kept it. Was there a time when someone failed to keep a promise? What was the result?

1. Chapter 2 of God’s story opens with God calling Abram to make the sacrifice of leaving a comfortable life: homeland, friends, family and steady income. Describe an experience when God called you to do step out in faith outside what was familiar (your comfort zone). What did you learn? What were the results?

2. God chose Abraham and his descendants to represent Him to others who did not yet know God. What parallels can you draw between Israel and the Church?

3. Consider God’s interaction with each character in chapter 2 of *The Story*. What patterns (or similarities) can you identify? What do these patterns reveal about the character of God?

4. Abraham serves as the example of justification by faith. Faith could be described as “trust in action based on what God has said.” Identify acts which demonstrate Abraham’s faith. What demonstrations of faith can you identify in your own life?

5. Abraham and Sarah waited 25 years for God to fulfill His promise of a child. Have you waited for a long period of time for God to act in a given situation? Are you waiting on something now? (Share the circumstance only if you are comfortable.) How might this example serve to encourage you? How can the group best pray for you?

6. Hagar, the Egyptian maidservant, was treated harshly by Sarah, causing her to flee on two different occasions. What do you learn about God from observing His interactions with her?

7. In Abraham’s culture, a name said a lot about someone’s character. God makes his relationship with Abram and Sarai official by making a covenant with them and changing their names to Abraham and Sarah. How has your character changed since your relationship with God began?

8. Jacob said to Esau, “*For to see your face is like seeing the face of God, now that you have received me favorably*” (p. 24). By showing grace to Jacob, Esau demonstrated God’s gracious character. To whom do you need to show grace?

In the time remaining ask your group members to share any of their personal reflection insights from their journal entries.