

LIFE GROUP MATERIAL ... 22 January 2012

"The Journey with God"

WELCOME: During a visit to a mental asylum, a visitor asked the Director what the criteria is that defines if a patient should be institutionalized. "Well," said the Director, "we fill up a bathtub. Then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup, and a bucket to the patient and ask the patient to empty the bathtub." "Oh, I understand," said the visitor. "A normal person would choose the bucket, as it is larger than the spoon." What was the director's response?

WORSHIP: Put a candle in the middle of the group. Put out the lights. Play a gentle reflective worship song and rest in God's presence.

WITNESS: Have you decided how to bless a missionary (last week)? Spend time praying for people you know who are unwell or have a disability.

READING: Genesis 12:1-4; Heb 11:8-10

NOTES: Sunday Sermon Outline.

The sermon on Sunday was on the theme of a life where miracles happen. This is the theme of the Word Study tonight.

Our studies on Abraham have focussed on Gen 12:1-4 in which we see Abraham moving from a "settled" life into an adventure with God where miracles happened

We've noted that Abraham's new life had 5 characteristics which the rest of the Bible confirms describe the kind of life that God works in miraculously:

- Abraham's Pursuit: is God
- Abraham's Priority is God's Will
- Abraham's Promise is God's Blessing
- Abraham's Peace is God's Plan
- Abraham's Prospect is God's Presence

We've reflected on the first two of these. On Sunday morning we looked at the third one: God's Blessing and noted that for Abraham and us this could be summed up in one word: Miracles!

WORD: select from the questions below those that are best for the group.

Q1. 12:1 For Abraham God's call required him to turn from his old life in Haran and set out on a new life. What similarities are there to becoming a Christian? The group may want to discuss what the following New Testament words mean: Born Again (John 3); New Creation (2 Cor 5); Repent (Mark 1:15; Acts 2:38); Converted (AV Matt 18:3).

Q2. 12.1 Is it possible to become a Christian without a radical life changing moment? Think together about people in the New Testament who became Christians. What does their experience tell us?

Q3. 12:1 How does God speak to us today. Have you ever "heard" the voice of God?

Q4. 12:2 In what way does God "bless" us? Can we obstruct the blessing of God so that even though God wants to bless we do not "receive" the blessing? If so how?

Q5. 12:3 Do you think God judges people who mistreat Christians?

Q6. Is there anything God cannot do? Is there anything God will not do?

Q7. Mark 11:24 If you pray for someone to be healed but are not sure that they will be healed will God heal them? How can you be sure so that you can believe you've received it before you ask?