

**PRAYER:** Begin with a few moments of sharing thanks and praises in prayer.

**Leaders:** it's your call; you may choose to incorporate more information/scriptures as time allows for your small group lesson.

**Opener:**

Have you ever been on a mission trip? If so, share one of your most memorable experiences. Or, share one way you have been blessed by giving something God provided for you, to bless another.

**Discuss:**

1. Open your Bible to Genesis 12. Then flip through the pages of Genesis 1 – 11. What kind of things are happening in those pages? For what nations or groups of people? Now starting with Genesis 12 and onward, do these parts have to do with only the Hebrews or with other nations or groups of peoples? What is the main difference between the first 12 chapters and the rest of the Bible? The first 12 chapters are mainly about the Israelites and from 12 forward, God impacts other nations through the Israelites.
2. Ask for volunteers to read each of the following passages: Genesis 12:1-3, 18:18; 26:4; 28:14. What is the significance of God repeating the promise directly to Isaac and to Jacob? The promise wasn't just for Abraham but for his offspring including us as we are offspring through Jesus Christ.
3. Read Genesis 22:1-18. Why do you think God declared that the promise for the nations would come forth because of this particular act of obedience? What did Abraham prove? God didn't reveal His purpose to Abraham through a list of tasks to do or obligate him to conduct particular "missionary tasks" to earn the blessing. Abraham showed God in this passage that he would freely obey in faith, letting God determine how and when he would fulfill the promise.
4. Ask for volunteers to read the following passages: Isaiah 42:1-12; 43:1-13; 49:1-13; 52: 13-53:12. Look for recurrent themes. What is the missionary mandate embedded in the promise of each of these passages? Was the Servant a single person? Or did the Servant refer to the entire people? Or both?
5. Read Revelation 7:9. How many nations were represented worshipping God? All.

**Plan for Action:**

1. Why do we go on Mission trips and send missionaries all over the world?  
Is it enough to meet physical needs? Why do we support programs like Children of Promise, TAPP (Tumaini Aids Prevention Program), etc?
2. What significance does Revelation 7:9 have on our choices for how we should invest in missions?

3. God's purpose for Abraham's life is the same as His for Christ and for you. What is it? How are you doing in living your life in the awareness of eternity? How are you investing in God's kingdom plans? Any changes you would like to make?

How can this group pray for you this week?

*To view the complete teaching from the Sunday services go to [www.centralcommunity.org/media/index.html](http://www.centralcommunity.org/media/index.html)*