



GROW. PRAY. SERVE.

**SERIES: Relationships—Gaining Traction in Our Relationships, Part 2**

Message: “The X Files”

**PRAYER:** God, we give you praise for your presence in our past, our present and our future. You are always there guiding us, protecting us and leading us despite our failure and mistakes. Today, we give you praise. Enable us now to put all our relationships in proper perspective so we can live to your glory. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. Amen.

**ICEBREAKER:** Isn’t it interesting how we often view the stories in the Bible... as a mix of unrelated stories whose characters we can’t quite keep straight? What is the oddest thing you recall hearing from the Bible... that story or verse that made you go, “Huh?”

**INTRODUCTION:** In this series, we see the story of a God who throughout history has acted deliberately to accomplish His purposes. Despite our relationship fumbles, God remains faithful in our lives. Nothing takes God by surprise. Everything is part of God’s redemptive plan to restore us. In fact, scripture is the unfolding story of a God who loves us unconditionally, pursues us untiringly and deliberately acts to fulfill all His promises with or without our consent or permission.

**GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. People often cling to promises in the Bible, finding strength and hope in the fact that God will fulfill them or has fulfilled them in their lives. Do you have a promise that is significant to you? What is it and what were the circumstances that made it special?
2. Though Abram ultimately believed God (Genesis 15:6), what was the glaring problem with the promise that he would be the father of a great nation? What event illuminates Abram’s struggle to wait for God’s perfect timing? (See Genesis 16)
3. “If you focus on your pressures, the promises of God fade, but if you focus on God’s promises, the pressure fades.” In what ways have you experienced this in your life?
4. Read Genesis 17:15-23. What issues does Abram struggle with here? Later in Genesis 22, God makes a huge ask of Abraham. What is it? How does Abraham respond? What life lesson had Abraham learned by this point that enabled him to respond without hesitation?
5. If God without a doubt delivers on all His promises, what does that mean about future events in our lives?

**CHALLENGE:** We see from Abraham’s story that God is able to deliver on His promises, even when we make mistakes in our relationships. Keeping Abraham’s story in mind, pair off with a member of the group and share with your partner an area in your life in which the pressures you face are battling to consume God’s promises to you. Pray for each other that you will lean on God’s promises rather than bow to the pressures around you.

**CHAMPION TIP:** Encourage your group to reflect on I Corinthians 13 this week and to think of someone to whom you can show love using this chapter as a model. Encourage them to memorize I Corinthians 13:4-7.