



THE CHOSEN PEOPLE: ISRAEL (Genesis 12 TO MALACHI)

“Everything flows into or out of Jesus.” Russ said that this is the focal point of God’s story. That’s a big statement, especially if you are accustomed to seeing the Old and New Testaments as two distinct, maybe even disconnected, elements. The whole idea of two versions of God come from that mindset. There is the God of the OT and the God of the NT. He clearly changed from one to the other. Has he? What we learn this week is that this is a different kind of people (Israel) God is building, and they serve a different kind of God.

This series emphasizes seeing Scripture as one unified story that points to Jesus.

What has helped (or hindered) your understanding of the “big picture” of Scripture?

TALK ABOUT IT

[Read Genesis 12:1-3, Gen. 22:15-18 and Matthew 1:1-2, 16.](#)

Abraham trusted God with a promise that seemed impossible.

Where in your life do you find it difficult to trust God when you can’t yet see how things will work out?

The sermon highlighted how messy Abraham’s family became—and yet God remained faithful.

Why do you think Scripture is so honest about the failures of its heroes?

How does that encourage you in your own story?

APPLY IT

Israel was called to be a blessing and a light to the nations but often failed in that mission.

What are some ways Christians today can lose sight of our calling to bless others and be a light to the world?

How has God's unwavering faithfulness helped you believe that you were created to be like him and not helpless to overcome sin?

Where do you currently see yourself in the larger story of God?

- **needing rescue**
- **learning trust**
- **wandering**
- **waiting**
- **being called to bless others**
- **longing for hope**
- **Something else?**

PRAY TOGETHER

Pray, specifically, for one another to put fear and worry in their place and build trust in God to be free from sin and shame.