**Growth Group Preparation Questions**

For the week of January 9, 2022

Abraham: 23 Years of Transformation. Gen. 18

**Big Idea**: God designs waiting to bring spiritual transformation

**Goal**: To stir reflection about how God is using waiting in each person’s life

**Prepare**

This week we're diving into *Genesis 18*asking God to show us how He is using waiting in our lives. The personal preparation time and discussion are meant to help us flesh out what we've learned through the sermon and apply it more thoroughly in our lives together.

**Watch**Pastor Shawn's sermon, *23 Years of Transformation*, noting anything memorable and impactful as you go. You can take notes in the FBC app if you'd like.

**Read**Genesis 18, John 15:12-17, Romans 8:28, 2 Peter 3:9

**Pray:**Father, stir us to reflect on the benefits of waiting on Your perfect timing.

**Connect**

1. What was your life like 23 years ago?
2. How has your most significant relationship grown through the years from the very beginning, and how has it changed you?

**Discussion**Take some time to personally reflect on these questions after viewing the sermon and before your G2. It could make for a great morning devotional time! You can type and save your responses in the FBC app privately if you would like.

1. Describe a perceived calling or desired future you are waiting to achieve.
	1. What might God be developing in your character to prepare you for this calling or desired future?
	2. What are some signs you are getting closer to being ready for your calling or desired future?
2. **Read Genesis 18:1-8.**Tell about a time someone's hospitality made a significant impression on you.
3. **Read Genesis 18:9-16**. In her waiting, Sarah became cynical about God's promise ever coming to fruition, but it didn't change His plan. How does this comfort you?
	1. What are some areas where you tend toward cynicism?
	2. Brainstorm some good ways to lovingly confront others about their cynicism and them help overcome it.
4. **Read Genesis 18:17-21 & John 15:12-17.**What evidence do you see of your friendship with Jesus growing? If you don't see any, what might be hindering it?
5. **Read Genesis 18:22-33.**How does Abraham's pleading on behalf of corrupt Sodom form a model for our own attitude toward the lost, even outwardly evil, people we meet today?

**Closing Prayer** This prayer section is a guide to help you process with God what you've learned about Him and yourself through the sermon, personal preparation time, and discussion, then seek the Holy Spirit's power in applying it in your life. Sharing these responses in your G2 will help others gain insight into God and themselves while also helping and encouraging one another toward growth.

**Admire**: What have you learned about God through this sermon, discussion, and Scripture? Praise Him for it.

**Admit**: What has the Holy Spirit revealed to you as areas where you are falling short? Confess it to God.

**Aspire**: What is a specific change you want to see in your life or action you and/or your G2 could take based in this time of interaction?

**Ask**: Keep track of requests and celebrations from others in your G2 and pray for them.