Growth Group Preparation Questions
For the week of February 13, 2022
Abraham: Called to Live as Exiles. Gen. 23

Big Idea: God is calling us to live as exiles
Goal: Gain fresh perspective on our life, possessions and heart investments.

Prepare
This week we're diving into *Genesis 23* asking God to provide fresh perspective on our life, possessions and heart investments. 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, *Called To Live As Exiles,* noting anything memorable and impactful as you go.
Read Genesis 23; 1 Peter 2:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Hebrews 11:9-10
Pray: Father, teach us to rely on You to live as aliens and strangers in this world.

Connect
1. How'd your Super Bowl pick work out? Are you celebrating, mourning, or indifferent?

2. Describe a situation where you paid more for something than it was worth. Does it still eat at you todayand why does it bother you so much?

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. **Read Romans 12:15**. Grief is hard to walk through not only for ourselves, but also for those around us. Talk about ways you have learned to help people (yourself included) grieve.

    a. What is the difference between grieving with hope and sugar-coating grief?

    b. What was your experience with mourning growing up?

2. **Read Hebrews 11:9-10.** What frustrates you about being a foreigner?

    a. What tempts you most from this foreign place?

b. What is the difference between not caring what people think of you and having your identity set in what Christ says about you?

c. Which of God's promises for your future do you find most helpful in facing the frustrations and temptations of this world?

3. **Read Genesis 23:5-19**. Describe a situation where you knew you were being disrespected, but needed to display humility with honor?

4. **Read 2 Cor. 1:22.** Like Abraham, we possess a "*guarantee*" of the promises of God. What is our *guarantee*, and how does it foreshadow our full inheritance as joint heirs with Christ?

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. **Possible response:** Father, Your eternal Kingdom is far greater than anything this world could ever offer!

Admit: What has the Holy Spirit revealed to you as areas where you are falling short? Confess it to God. **Possible response:** God, we confess our tendency to find our value in temporal things instead of Jesus.

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? **Possible Response:** God help us rely on You to live humbly and honorably as aliens and strangers in this world.

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