

## Genesis 13 – Developing 2020 Vision

### January 5, 2020 Discussion Notes

Everyone is encouraged to bring a Bible

(Phone apps are good for reading together in the same translation. Study Bibles give help with interpretation.)



#### DEVELOPING 2020 VISION

##### FOCUS ON:

- GOD'S PURPOSE (GOING)
- GOD'S PRESENCE (GROWING)
- GOD'S PROMISES (KNOWING)

#### Questions:

1. Do you ever make “New Year’s resolutions”? If so, do you find the practice helpful? Or do you revert to your former habits fairly quickly?
2. Share a few 2020 New Year’s resolutions with the group (if you made any).
3. What do you remember about each of the main points of the sermon? (seen above). What in the sermon challenged you? Do you have any questions to bring up?
4. Read Acts 16:6-10
  - a) This story occurs during Paul’s second missionary journey. Why did Paul go on these journeys? (see Acts 26:16-18 and Acts 15:41)
  - b) How did Paul receive guidance from God to go to Macedonia?
  - c) Does anything strike you about Paul’s vision?
  - d) The man in the vision was pleading for help. Why do you think Paul interpreted this in terms of bringing the gospel to Macedonia?
  - e) How do you think you would respond if God gave you a vision of a neighbor down the street begging for help?
  - f) To what degree should we look for ways to reach out even if we don’t have such a vision?
5. Read Acts 13:1-4. This tells of how Paul went on his first missionary journey.
  - a) According to the text, who called Saul (Paul) and Barnabas to missionary work?
  - b) How do you think this message was probably communicated?
  - c) What was the context of this message’s arrival? What were the believers doing?
  - d) Why do you think the Holy Spirit chose a time like that to speak?
  - e) Do you think we would hear from the Holy Spirit more if we spent more time worshiping the Lord and fasting?
  - f) Have you ever spent time fasting and prayer? Did you see anything good come from it?
  - g) Read Isaiah 58:1-12 and Matthew 6:16-18 for some general instructions on fasting.
6. Read Exodus 33:3-6.
  - a) Why were the people distressed even though God was sending them to the Promised Land?
  - b) What was the people’s response? (compare this to Daniel 10:1-3)
  - c) Now read Exodus 33:15-20. What was more important to Moses than reaching the Promised Land?
  - d) How would you rate your own hunger for God’s presence in your life? (Note: God is always present with us, promising to never leave or forsake us. But there are times when we might experience the Holy Spirit’s work in especially powerful ways. It is at these times that we perceive God’s presence more than normal).
  - e) What was God’s response to Moses? (see v. 17)
  - f) What do you think God’s response to you would be if you prayed similarly to Moses?
7. Are there any new resolutions you would like to add to your list for 2020?
8. Share prayer requests and pray together. Pray for a great new year and new decade. Ask God to show you if there are any around you who need spiritual help (like the Macedonian man in Paul’s vision).