

God Builds a Nation

The Story Ch. 2 p.p. 13-27

VIDEO:

Go to <http://vimeo.com/album/1514042>

When prompted for a password enter: **TheStory** (case sensitive)

Find and watch the video titled "The Story For Groups Chapter 2"

Summary:

God builds a nation by faithfully keeping his promises and refining the character of his followers, even using those who are far from perfect.

Think about:

- Why do you think God changes names? Abram became Abraham, "Father of a Great Nation." (Genesis 17:5). Sarai became Sarah, "Princess." (Genesis 17:15) Jacob became Israel, "A Prince of God." (Genesis 32:28; 35:10) What name would you like God to give you to reflect who you would like to be in his eyes?
- Abraham got ahead of things by trying to speed up God's promise with the birth of Ishmael (*The Story*, pages 15-16). Have you ever prayed for something and then got ahead of God by trying to make it happen. What was the result? Were there consequences?
- Isaac is referred to as the son that Abraham loved. Name someone you love. How difficult would it be to give up that person?
- What did Abraham prove to God through his willingness to sacrifice Isaac? What did God prove to Abraham by His willingness to provide a substitute sacrifice?
- Isaac is a picture of God's ultimate sacrifice. What does this tell you about God's desire to have a relationship with you? (See John 3:16)

Take away:

God was ready to create a family of people that would be his own. This family will be the bearers of the promise and will find their ultimate purpose as the family of the Messiah who would come to restore what was lost as a result of the fall.

Prayer:

Thank you, Lord, for the way you guide us every day – at home, at work and at school. Help us to be a good example of faith and obedience. Heavenly Father, help us to appreciate our family more than we have in the past. Let us see the positives in each family member and overlook the negatives. Show us how to forgive each other as you have forgiven us. In Jesus' name, Amen.