THE EPIC OF EDEN
VIDEO STUDY GUIDE

Understanding the Old Testament

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Group Session Guide

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INTRODUCTION—
SUGGESTIONS FOR THE
GROUP LEADER

This week your group is launching into an adventure that I pray will change their lives and yours. Our objective is to put the great story of redemption back into the hands of the average Christian. You’ll be the captain of this quest.

The Epic of Eden Video Study Guide is intended as homework material that the members of your group will prepare each week before you gather and view the video. The weekly studies have five days of exercises that draw your members into the inductive study of their Bibles. These should be accessible, time-efficient, and allow for further inquiry as desired.

Each week commences with “A Word from the Author” introducing the topic and a short section situating the week’s study in “Real Time and Space.” After those introductory pieces, the daily studies begin with a section titled “First Contact,” designed to get your members thinking about what is to come from their own real space and time. Each day then moves “Into the Story.” This is where the inductive Bible study begins in earnest. Our primary goal is to lead your group members into the discovery of the Bible. The questions direct students into a close reading of the text. Next the “Real People, Real Places, Real Faith” section provides further information about the original setting of these biblical narratives and characters, and challenges your group members to get back into the Bible’s real time and space—to put themselves into the shoes of these not-so-ivory-tower heroes. Finally “Our People, Our Places, Our Faith” will bring the ancient story back into a contemporary setting. This exercise teaches your members how to responsibly interpret their Bible (the science of hermeneutics) and transports texts that might have appeared irrelevant into front-and-center relevance for our contemporary contexts.

Our hope is that we’ve included enough different learning styles that every member of your group will find themselves engaged and challenged. As long as your members feel this way, we’ve succeeded.
The *Group Session Guide* is designed for you, the facilitator, but will also be helpful for group participants. Encourage them to bring their books and follow along during group sessions. Ideally, to accommodate the video and discussion, an hour and a half should be set aside for each group session. This can certainly be modified to suit your group’s schedule. In a perfect world, we recommend that the leader read the book upon which this study is based (*The Epic of Eden*, IVP Academic, 2008). You will find it immensely helpful as you attempt to guide the group. If you’re reading, you don’t need to preview the videos. If not, you should preview the videos. Keep in mind that curriculum is a tool, not a straight jacket. You are the leader. You are called to lead this group. You need to adjust according to your own style. We suggest that group members be allowed to talk, ask questions, offer their “ah-hah” moments, and personal research. These elements are critical to the success of your group. Trust your group members, trust the study of the Bible, trust the Holy Spirit, and let your people talk. Questions are provided to facilitate the discussion.

Our prayer is that this material will rock your world. Know that “where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there I Am in your midst” (Matt 18:20). And know that the team behind this curriculum is praying daily that wherever you are, the Holy Spirit is with you, and the kingdom is being built. Godspeed!

**First Things**

We are including here a few *suggestions* for the group’s introductory meeting. You are welcome to plan this gathering in any way that best suits your group. Let the Holy Spirit be your guide.

- Introduce yourself to the group and introduce the purpose of the study.
- Allow members of the group to briefly introduce themselves (i.e., first name and in one sentence what they hope to gain from this study).
PASS OUT MATERIALS AND EXPLAIN HOW THE STUDY WORKS.

VIEW INTRODUCTORY VIDEO (LOCATED ON DISC ONE OF THE 12-WEEK VIDEO STUDY DVDs).

**Practical Tips**

- Choose a space for your study that matches the size of your group, facilitates note taking, and encourages discussion.
- Have refreshments. Lots of studies have shown that adults do way better in small groups when there are snacks available!
- Have someone serve as host/hostess and have name tags. These are very helpful for welcoming newcomers and breaking down barriers.
SESSION 1

(Introduction)
The Great Cultural Barrier

Opening Prayer

Debrief and Discover
- If we opened the door to your clothes closet, in what condition would we find it: neat and orderly, somewhat organized, or “I’d rather not talk about it”? Does this in any way speak to your personality?
- Can you describe the family and/or neighborhood culture you grew up in? What did you like about it?
- Have you ever been on a trip to another culture? If so, to where?
- Why do you think many Christians struggle with the study of the Old Testament?

View Session 1 Video (35 minutes)

Dialogue and Digest
- Had you ever considered that many of our popular portraits of Jesus tend to paint him in “our own image”? What are some benefits to seeing him through your cultural lens? What are some risks?
- Richter described ethnocentrism as an assumption that all other cultures are like our own. How might ethnocentrism affect your understanding and interpretation of the Bible?
- The video mentions four women that are included in the genealogy of Matthew 1 (Ruth, Rahab, Uriah’s wife Bathsheba, and Tamar).
What do you think is the significance of these women being included in the genealogy of Jesus?

- Richter described “canonizing culture” as assuming a particular culture to be morally superior to another. What are some of the ways that the church has canonized Israel’s culture in the past?
- What might be an example of “canonizing” our current church culture?
- How did the image and description of the four-room pillared house affect your understanding of the birth of Jesus or the nativity scene?
- Which of the following descriptions—patriarchal, patrilineal, or patrilocal—gave you the most insight and understanding into the culture of the Old Testament?

Decide and Do

- What is something from the video or in the past week’s reading that surprised you or taught you something new?
- It was suggested that sometimes we must visit another culture (or cross cultures) in order to better recognize our own. Did you find it difficult to describe your own culture in our opening conversation?
- What do you think will be the most challenging aspect of being a part of this study?
- At the end of this twelve-week study, what do you hope to come away having learned or accomplished?
- Is there something on your heart for which you would like prayer? Especially something this week’s study has brought to light?

Closing Prayer

Reminder: If you are behind in the reading, pick back up with Week 2, Day 1 tomorrow to get back on track.
SESSION 2

Redemption

Opening Prayer

Debrief and Discover

- What's the largest amount of cash you have ever lost out of your pocket or purse? What's the largest amount of money you have ever found? Where did you find it?
- What is your position in your family’s birth order and what are the benefits or frustrations of this position?
- When you think about the word “redemption,” what comes to your mind? What do you think redemption means?

View Session 2 Video (24 minutes)

- Dialogue and Digest
- Have you ever helped a family member or been helped by family through a tough life circumstance that you would be willing to share?
- What aspects of the video resonated with you the most?
- Comment on the feature of redemption from each of the examples given:
  - How did Boaz redeem Naomi and Ruth?
  - Did Ruth in any way redeem Naomi?
  - How did Abraham redeem Lot?
  - How did Hosea redeem Gomer?
  - How would you have responded the second time around when Gomer got herself in such a deep mess again?
  - In what ways do these stories help us understand the nature of God?
Richter said, “It is the job of the patriarch to mobilize his resources to seek and save the lost even if it puts his own life at risk.” Can you see any comparisons between the responsibilities of a patriarch in a tribal culture and the work of Jesus in redemption?

Did the video raise any questions for you that you would like to share?

Decide and Do

Spiritual Formation Exercise (take a minute of quiet reflection for each of the following):

- In a moment of silent prayer, consider some ways that others have had a redeeming impact in your life. Give gratitude to God for these people.
- Now consider how God has in the past, and is currently in the present, redeeming you. Give gratitude to God for this.
- Ponder for a moment if there is anyone in your life you feel compelled to reach out to or forgive.

Would you be willing to share an insight or a prayer concern from this exercise?

Closing Prayer

Reminder: If you are behind in the reading, pick back up with Week 3, Day 1 tomorrow to get back on track.
SESSION 3
Real Time and Space

Opening Prayer

Debrief and Discover

- Are you a person who stops for directions or drives around until you figure it out? Anyone want to share a story about getting lost?
- When it comes to geography, how would you describe yourself:
  1. If you name a city I can likely tell you where it is.
  2. I have a pretty good sense of where many countries and large cities are.
  3. I can name all seven continents
  4. I think Canada is up north.
- What is the most beautiful place you’ve ever been? What features of that location make it beautiful to you?
- When it comes to places in the Bible, are you someone who likes to find out where those events took place, or have they often been a mystery to you?

View Session 3 Video (32 minutes)

Dialogue and Digest

- Recite as a group the five names and three regions that Richter offers as the anchors for real time and space in the biblical narrative.
- How has the discussion of geography and the five major plotlines of the Old Testament helped you to better understand the story? What connections were most helpful?
There are some who hold a belief that the earth was created between six and ten thousand years ago in what is sometimes referred to as Young Earth Creationism. Richter argues we are unable to date events like Eden and the flood. What reactions do you have to this?

We heard in the video of Abram leaving Ur and traveling to Haran, then being called to travel “to the land I [Yahweh] will show you.” What would your response be if God called you to move hundreds or thousands of miles away? Let’s be honest, what questions or anxieties might you have?

Decide and Do

In the reading we encountered the twelve spies who went into Canaan to bring back a report to Moses. Ten were filled with fear and reported that they didn’t believe they would be successful in taking the land God had promised. Fear is something we all face in our lives. Pause for a moment of quiet reflection and take an inventory of any fear or anxieties you are currently experiencing.

Read Psalm 46:1–3 aloud reflectively: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way, though the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.”

Is there something on your heart for which you would like prayer? Especially something this week’s study has brought to light?

Closing Prayer

Reminder: If you are behind in the reading, pick back up with Week 4, Day 1 tomorrow to get back on track.
SESSION 4

Covenant

Opening Prayer

Debrief and Discover

- Think of the first time you made a major purchase (like a house or a car). Share what that experience was like. Was it difficult to decide? Were you nervous? Excited? Surprised at the paperwork?
- When you think of the word “covenant,” what comes to your mind?
- Have you ever come across a child who seemed to be lost and couldn’t find their parents? What went through your mind in that experience? What emotions did you feel? What emotions was that child feeling?
- Have you ever had to back out of an agreement that you made? Or had a contract broken? What was that experience like?

View Session 4 Video (29 Minutes)

Dialogue and Digest

- “What would you suggest as a modern day analogue to the ancient idea of “covenant”? Have you ever been a partner in that sort of agreement? Tell us about how being a partner in that agreement affected your behavior?”
- Discuss the concept of fictive kingship. Do we have any modern day analogues in our society. Think about ways that understanding the concept helps us to better understand Israelite culture and the concept of covenant?
The video speaks of one of the features of bērît, or “covenant,” having to do with love and hate. Richter mentions that to love in this case has to do with obedience and relates it to these verses:

- “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deut. 6:5). Discuss the implications of love as obedience versus love as sentiment or feeling.
- “Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated.” (Mal, 1:2–3) Comment on the meaning of this verse in light of the video?

Decide and Do

- Optional Listen and Reflect: Go to www.mathewclark.net and listen to “Overture” from his CD Bright Came the Word from His Mouth. The lyrics are printed on page 55 if you would like to follow along.
- Is there something on your heart for which you would like prayer? Especially something this week’s study has brought to light?

Closing Prayer

Reminder: If you are behind in the reading, pick back up with Week 5, Day 1 tomorrow to get back on track.
SESSION 5

Treaty

Opening Prayer

Debrief and Discover

- Have you ever traveled somewhere as a large group on a mission trip, a field trip, or work-related trip? Are you the person who follows all the directions? The person who figures someone will be listening and can tell you what you missed? Or (be honest) are you somewhat annoyed by having to follow such specific directions in a group?
- If you could travel back to a particular time in your life (an exciting time, a youthful excursion, when children were young, college days, etc.) when would you pick and why?

View Session 5 Video (34 Minutes)

Dialogue and Digest

- Richter mentions that we often perceive the God of the Old Testament as harsh and full of judgment, while we think of the God of the New Testament as loving and full of grace. What are your thoughts on this after the video and readings?
- Obedience was a major theme in the reading this past week—the idea that blessings would come from obedience to God’s law, but cursing would come from disobedience. How do you relate and/or struggle with this concept?
Choosing life was a major theme in Deuteronomy 30:19–20—that we choose life by loving the Lord God, obeying him, and holding fast to him. What does it mean to you to choose life?

Richter said, “God acts before he requires obedience, just as a child is loved first and disciplined second” (for example, he delivered the Israelites from Egypt before he gave them the law at Sinai). Given this, why do you think we tend to reverse this by thinking if we do the right things then God will love us?

Just as certain rules apply within a marriage relationship, Richter mentions that these rules are designed to protect the relationship. Why do we tend to think rules or laws are restrictive rather than freeing?

**Decide and Do**

- Have someone read Matthew 26:26–28 aloud. After studying the concept of covenant found in the Old Testament, how might you explain this passage? What does it mean that our God would serve as both “suzerain and sacrifice”?

- Optional Listen and Reflect: Go to www.mathewclark.net and listen to “The People of God” from his CD Bright Came the Word from His Mouth. The lyrics are printed on page 76 if you would like to follow along.

- What do you think it means for us today to be the people of God?

- Is there a way that you could choose life in your relationship with God this week? Would any of you be willing to share this?

- Is there something on your heart for which you would like prayer? Especially something this week’s study has brought to light?

**Closing Prayer**

*Reminder: If you are behind in the reading, pick back up with Week 6, Day 1 tomorrow to get back on track.*
SESSION 6

God’s Original Intent

Opening Prayer

Debrief and Discover

- What are some essential ingredients in your version of paradise? If there could be an endless supply of any food there, what would it be?
- At Christmas time when you were a kid and your parents hid gifts in the house, would you try to find them, or would you want it to be a surprise? Or when someone tells you “I can’t tell you, it’s a surprise,” are you happy to wait for the surprise or do you try to figure it out?
- Based on what you know about Genesis 1 and 2 and the story of Adam and Eve, what do you think God wanted our relationship to look like prior to the fall?

View Session 6 Video (34 Minutes)

Dialogue and Digest

- In considering that there is a literary structure to the seven days of creation, what do you think the author of Genesis 1 was trying to convey to us? (Think sun to rule the day, birds to rule the heavens, animals to rule the land, and humanity to rule animals, land, fish, birds, sea, etc.)
- Toward the end of the video Richter mentions that Adam (and Eve) had essentially said, “I don’t want the seventh day.” What do you think she meant by that?
Richter describes the results of “Adam’s choice” as “not just the removal of blessings, but a reversal of blessings. What had been a blessing now becomes a curse, a benefit becomes a burden, paradise is exchanged for prison.” What do you think of this description?

The curse placed upon Eve includes pain (and death) in childbirth and the “desire” for her husband who will rule over her. Adam’s curse includes the curse of the land, fruitless work, anxiety, and death (this applies to Eve as well). Do these realities of the curse resonate with your own human experience? What parts do you connect with?

**Decide and Do**

- We all know what it is like to live in a fallen world where bad things happen, people get sick, disasters abound, etc. These experiences often cause us to question God’s goodness. How might insight into the fall and God’s redemption plan shape our understanding?
- Consider the idea of “sweat” as anxiety and worry. What are some areas where you experience anxiety or worry? Anybody willing to share openly?
- Is there something on your heart for which you would like prayer? Especially something this week’s study has brought to light?

**Closing Prayer**

*Reminder: If you are behind in the reading, pick back up with Week 7, Day 1 tomorrow to get back on track.*
SESSION 7

God’s Final Intent

Opening Prayer

Debrief and Discover

- We are now more than halfway through this study. How are the readings coming along? Overall, how has it been to have the opportunity to read some Old Testament passages each day? Are you encountering new material, or are you re-familiarizing yourself with stories you haven’t visited in a long time?
- Can you think of a time in your life when you sensed God was calling you into a deeper relationship or commitment to him? Are you willing to share? (If you have a larger group you may decide to have half share this week and half share next week.)

View Session 7 Video (30 Minutes)

Dialogue and Digest

- In the video we learned that cherubim statues were designed to keep people from entering a king’s presence in an unworthy fashion. Richter said, “God has pulled an image out of Israel’s regular world to communicate to them that the Holy of Holies and the garden of Eden, both defended by cherubim, are the throne room of the Almighty” What does this teach you about the nature of God?
- We also learned of the image of the river from Ezekiel that a flowed out of the temple and into the Dead Sea. What did she say was the significance of the image of a “river of life” flowing both from the temple and the garden of Eden?
Richter said, “Your God will not rest until he has sought out every lost kinsmen of his household and he has brought them home.” Have you ever considered that God thinks of you like a lost member of his family (a son or daughter), whom he will never quit on until he has you home? What would having you “home” look like?

Richter suggested that redemption is the reversal of the tragic fall from the garden of Eden. Therefore, we already have an image of what heaven is like—it’s like the garden of Eden, only it is the whole planet being redeemed. How might this contribute to your understanding of heaven?

**Decide and Do**

- Have someone read Romans 8:18–25 aloud.
- Take a moment of quiet reflection to ask yourself: Where do I most often place my hope or confidence? Is it time, money, marriage, children, job, security, something else?
- Hear these words: “we wait eagerly for our adoption . . . , the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were [are] saved” (Rom. 8:23–24).
- Is there something on your heart for which you would like prayer? Especially something this week’s study has brought to light?

**Closing Prayer**

*Reminder: If you are behind in the reading, pick back up with Week 8, Day 1 tomorrow to get back on track.*
SESSION 8
Noah

Opening Prayer of Preparation Debrief and Discover

■ Are you a morning person or a night owl?
■ Have you ever done something (or thought of doing something) that other people thought was crazy, but you just knew you had to do it? What was it? Did you go through with it?
■ Is there a time in your life you would define as an “epoch divider”—a benchmark by which you categorize everything else as before, during, and after? Perhaps it was a major life transition (leaving for college, marriage, parenthood) or a point of great pain or crisis (an injury, a diagnosis, a divorce)? Would you be willing to share one of those moments with our group?

View Session 8 Video (36 Minutes)

Dialogue and Digest

■ What do you know now about Noah and the flood that you didn’t know before this week?
■ Compared to the tendency to depict this story as a happy little children’s tale with smiling animals and colorful rainbows, what is this story really all about (think de-creational and re-creational)?
■ In the video Richter said, “If you have three different societies telling the same tale, it’s probable that there was a very big flood (think tsunami) somewhere in Mesopotamia that wiped out a lot of people.” Does this information lend credibility to the historical flood and the story of Noah for you?
Did you hear the echo of the Eden narrative in Noah’s covenant in Genesis 9? Had you ever noticed that language before? What do you make of the similarities and differences between Genesis 1 and 9? (Refer to your chart on Day 5 of this week’s study.) What is the significance of Noah’s covenant being made with all of creation?

Had you ever associated Noah’s flood with Jesus’ second coming (Matt. 24:37–39)? What did you understand that connection to be?

Decide and Do

How might you live differently if you knew a great flood was imminent? If you knew that within this next year Jesus would return, how would you prioritize your life?

Optional Listen and Reflect: Go to www.mathewclark.net and listen to “Let Go The Floodgates” from his CD Bright Came the Word from His Mouth. Listen for the line “Let go the floodgates, unmake the mess that we made, pour out your judgment, ready the world to be saved.”

Is there something on your heart for which you would like prayer? Especially something this week’s study has brought to light?

Closing Prayer

Reminder: If you are behind in the reading, pick back up with Week 9, Day 1 tomorrow to get back on track.
SESSION 9

Abraham

Opening Prayer

Debrief and Discover

- What is the strangest food you have ever eaten?
- Have you ever been to a place where the majority of the people around you didn’t speak your language? Where was it, and what was that experience like for you? (Hint: now imagine God had called you to leave your family and security and move to that place.)
- In a highly stressful situation or crisis have you typically been someone who springs into action, turns inward and withdraws, gets anxious or panics, calls a friend or loved one, cries out in prayer, or some combination of these? Describe?

View Session 9 Video (34 Minutes)

Dialogue and Digest

- In the Session One video, we talked about the bèt ‘āb. Given what you now know about the bèt ‘āb, what do you make of God’s request for Abram to leave his extended family and his willingness to do so?
- Many Christians seem to have a fear that if they really gave all or more of themselves to God, that God in turn would ask them to do something they wouldn’t want to do? Have you experienced this?
- How in the past have you responded if you felt like God was calling or leading you toward something? Where might one turn to discern if they are hearing correctly?
What might Paul say about the nature of Abram’s covenant (cf. Rom. 4:3, 20–22; Gal. 3:6)?

Discuss the significance of the smoke and fire and Yahweh walking between the pieces of the sacrifice in Genesis 15. How does this differ from a typical suzerain/vassal covenant? How does understanding this inform your understanding of the depth of God’s promise to Abraham? Talk about the connection of this to Jesus’ sacrifice?

Decide and Do

Optional Listen and Reflect: Go to www.mathewclark.net and listen to “Father Without A Child” from his CD Bright Came the Word from His Mouth.

The video highlighted Abraham and Sarah’s struggle with infertility. Has there been something in your life that you keep praying for, hoping God will answer? A loved one who doesn’t know Jesus, a dream you have, a longing for healing for you or someone else? Would you be willing to share?

Move into a time of prayer, name those requests that have been shared.

Closing Prayer

Reminder: If you are behind in the reading, pick back up with Week 10, Day 1 tomorrow to get back on track.
SESSION 10
Moses

Opening Prayer

Debrief and Discover

- What is your favorite thing to do in summer?
- Has your career path ever taken a serious left turn? Maybe it was a failed job experience, a layoff, a choice to limit your own success in preference to your spouse’s career. What was that like for you? Did you feel uncertain about your future? Your worth?
- Is there a physical place that reminds you of the greatness of God? Your own home early in the morning, a screened-in porch, a campsite your family visits each year, the ends of the ocean. What is it about that place that makes it sacred for you?

View Session 10 Video (30 Minutes)

Dialogue and Digest

- Richter described the testimony of an Israelite as, “I was a slave, my father was a slave before me, and his father was a slave before him. My life had no value, my life had no meaning, and then Yahweh heard the cry of His people, He remembered His covenant with Abraham and He came, and He found me, and He rescued me.” Discuss the Israelites testimony with that of a New Covenant Christ follower?
- Think about the statement, “We could not go to Him, so He has come to us! The everyday worshipper could never enter the Holy Place, let alone the Holy of Holies.” Do you think it can be easy for
Christians to take for granted the access we have been granted to the presence of God?

- Consider the tabernacle. What are your thoughts on the movement of the presence, housed in the Holy of Holies in the Mosaic covenant, where only one man could enter one time per year, to the church and the individual believer in the New Covenant?

- 1 Corinthians 6:19 states, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?” (NASB). Discuss what you think this means?

- What was a key takeaway for you from this video (or the reading)?

- Richter states: “If we are to understand the God of our salvation, the faith of Israel, and therefore our own faith, we must understand the exodus.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?

**Decide and Do**

- Optional Listen and Reflect: Go to www.mathewclark.net and listen to “Open Your Eyes” from his CD *Bright Came the Word from His Mouth*.

- If the number 1 represented feeling very far from God, and 10 represented feeling very close to God, what number would describe how close you feel to God today? Would you care to share why you gave that number?

- Is there something on your heart for which you would like prayer? Especially something this week’s study has brought to light?

**Closing Prayer**

*Reminder: If you are behind in the reading, pick back up with Week 11, Day 1 tomorrow to get back on track.*
SESSION 11

David

Opening Prayer

Debrief and Discover

- We are in the home stretch, just one more session to go!
- What is one goal or dream or bucket list item you would like to do or experience in your lifetime?
- Of all the characters we have discussed so far, Adam, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Joseph, David, etc., who do you relate to the most, and why?

View Session 11 Video (29 Minutes)

Dialogue and Digest

- At the end of the book in Judges 21:25 we hear these words, “everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” Given our current culture, which seems to encourage doing whatever “feels right,” are we not often living out very similar patterns and cycles? Discuss this.
- What was a key takeaway for you from this video (or the reading)?
- When facing Goliath, Richter said, “For David, it doesn’t matter who the enemy is, it matters who is on his side.” This has the echo of Paul in Romans 8:31, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” Do you resonate with that kind of audacious trust, do you hope for it, or do you flat out struggle with it? Explain?
- Toward the end of the video we heard the passage 2 Samuel 7:12–16 ending with the promise, “your kingdom will endure forever before
me; your throne will be established forever.” How is it that David’s kingdom would endure forever?

Decide and Do

■ Optional Listen and Reflect: Go to www.mathewclark.net and listen to “Everlasting Shepherd” from his CD *Bright Came the Word from His Mouth*.

■ Has there been a time in your life (perhaps now) when you had to wait a long time for an answer, a solution, or a promise to be fulfilled? What have you been waiting for, hoping for, praying for in the present? Let these words of sharing guide you into a time of prayer.

Closing Prayer

*Reminder: If you are behind in the reading, pick back up with Week 12, Day 1 tomorrow to get back on track.*
SESSION 12

The New Covenant

Opening Prayer

Debrief and Discover

- If you had to describe yourself using only three words, what would they be? Now a tougher challenge: If you had to describe God in just three words what would it be? Take a moment to think of your three before you share.

View Session 12 Video (36 Minutes)

Dialogue and Digest

- Regarding the “already,” what do you think about the idea that as Christians we are, first, citizens of another kingdom? Do you agree? If this is true, how should that direct the way we live right now? (Phil. 3:20)
- Regarding the “not yet,” think about the idea that the citizens of your kingdom belong to every nation on earth (Rev. 7:9–10). How does that affect the way you (and your nation) interact with other nations?
- Richter described everything in between the garden of Eden and the New Jerusalem as a “rescue plan.” Name some ways the whole story of Scripture makes more sense to you now that you understand this?
Decide and Do

- As we conclude this study, name one (or at the most, two) of the most important insights you have discovered for your personal faith.
- Are there any commitments you are making or things in your life you desire to change as a result of being a part of this study?
- Optional Listen and Reflect: Go to www.mathewclark.net and listen to “Kingdom Come” from his CD Bright Came the Word from His Mouth. The lyrics are printed on page 210 if you would like to follow along.
- Is there something on your heart for which you would like prayer? Especially something this week’s study has brought to light?

Closing Prayer

Reminder: If you are behind in the reading, the study is now over, but we invite you to read it again anytime!