



**Crisis of Faith**  
**Genesis 12 - 22; Philippians 4:4-13**  
**Week of February 9, 2020**  
**Jeff Germo**

**Objective of this study:** To grow in our trust in God, and to change the things we 'meditate' on.

[Remember, the main goal of each Growth Group is to allow God's Word to change your heart so that others would see Jesus in you and be likewise changed to be like him. He wants to change the world through us.]

**Worship (5 – 10 minutes)**

1. Sing a song or two of praise and thanksgiving to God.
2. Spend five minutes in silence asking God to prepare your heart for hearing his word. After the silence, have someone read **Psalm 89:1-8** meditatively to the group. Pause after each phrase letting God speak to you. **Did anything "jump out at you"?**

**Welcome question**

What is an experience that caused your trust in someone to grow?

[It's really important when doing this study that we each think about ourselves specifically and ways we need to grow, not how Christians in general need to grow. Do the hard work of letting the Holy Spirit speak to *your* heart.]

**Word/Work (60-90 minutes)**

1. What stood out from the sermon?
2. "At the Fall, the seed of distrust was sown, trust was broken, and ever since then, humans have had trouble trusting God and each other." **Can you relate to this?**
3. Read Genesis 12:1-4. "But God had a plan to restore trust. He called Abraham and used him to play a key role in this plan."
4. "Abraham also had trouble trusting God, and we can see his distrust affecting his choices. But God didn't give up on him. In various ways, God built Abraham's trust." Look at Abraham's story by skimming the headings of Genesis chapters 12 to 22. **What choices do you see Abraham making out of distrust? How did God build Abraham's trust?**
5. Read Philippians 4:4-13. Here Paul reflects on some of his own experiences, what God has taught him, and what he has learned. And he tenderly, compassionately shares his advice with his dear Philippian friends. **Which of his words in this passage are most significant for you?**
6. What do you tend to 'meditate' on? Worries? Regrets? Resentments? What does Paul instruct us to meditate on? **How would living this way change your life?**
7. Look back on your own life. **How has God built your trust? That is, how has he met you in your difficult times? How has he provided for you? How has he spoken to you? What has he shown you about his reliability?** As we reflect on these things, our trust can grow.
8. Quote from Pete Unrau: "Pain university: learn from it with patience; live through it with acceptance; share it humbly with tenderness...Peace is not the absence of trouble, but the presence of Christ."
9. What has God spoken to you through the sermon or these passages? **What is the Holy Spirit prompting you to change in your thought habits this week?**

## Prayer

1. Spend the rest of the time praying for each other. **Thank God for how he loves us and grows our trust in him.** Here are some things you can pray about for the church:

A. That, as a church, we would actively and purposefully engage in the mission of Jesus in Campbell River.

B. Our church board and staff as they lead us to live out the mission of Jesus.

C. River Kids ministry as they reach out to kids in our community.

D. **Our missionary of the week: Aaron and Julie Gole.** (Check out the church [website](#) for how to pray for them.)

E. **Local church: Discovery Community Church.**

**Radiant Life February Drive - Men's pants, hoodies, jackets.**