

# WEEK 2: UNFINISHED TRUST

## MESSAGE NOTES:

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### **SMALL GROUPS GUIDE**

#### TEACHING AND TESTIMONY VIDEO

Play Teaching and Testimony Video for Week 2. Share reflections from the video. Then, pray for this testimony before you begin the rest of the lesson. Watch the video at [eastside.com/unfinished](http://eastside.com/unfinished).

### **OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- ❶ Why is it difficult to trust people? Why do we have so many trust issues?
- ❷ When was a time when you trusted someone, and it turned out for the positive?
- ❸ What does it take in order for true trust to be present?

### **FURTHER DISCUSSION FROM SCRIPTURE**

Read the following Scripture passage and discuss the questions as a group. You may want to have each group member journal their answer first in the provided space before discussing together, as a means of encouraging all to participate more deeply.

# TRUSTING IN GOD MEANS NOT LOOKING ONLY AT OUR CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCE, BUT AT GOD’S PROMISES OF OUR FUTURE

## Genesis 15:1-6

*The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then He said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Abram believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness.*

- 1 Abraham’s wife was barren and thus could not conceive a child for many, many years. In fact, Abraham went through many trials with the Lord before God finally gave Abraham and his wife Sarah their own son (Genesis 21). In fact, Abraham was one hundred years old at this time... Imagine that! But God kept his promise and indeed Abraham and Sarah had their own son. Is there a circumstance in your life or in someone else’s life in which God revealed himself in this type of way and made the seemingly impossible possible?

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- 2 Or potentially you are still in a waiting and trusting mode about something God has promised to you through His Word. Is this your situation? Share if you are able.

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## WEEK 2: UNFINISHED TRUST

### GOD CALLS US INTO PLACES WE CANNOT ARRIVE AT ON OUR OWN, SOMETIMES EVEN WITH A NEW NAME

Genesis 17:1-8

*When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."*

- 3 Why do you think it was so important that God changed Abram's name?

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4 Do you ever feel that you have been “named” by a situation of your past and that it limits your trust in God's promises for your future? How might God be trying to “change your name” in how He is leading you forward and asking you to trust Him?

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5 As you think about this Unfinished journey, and specifically the Unfinished commitment God is asking you to make, what barriers, situations, or “names” from your past are preventing you from trusting in God fully as you make this Unfinished commitment?

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6 How can your Small Group be praying for you in this, that God would release this barrier from you and “give you a new name” as He leads you into this new path for your future?

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