

## Greater Things Group Week 1 Discussion Guide

**Activity Opener:** Start the night with opening the item in your Greater Things Box labeled week 1. You'll find something called snapshot cards. These are a great tool to introduce yourselves or go deeper in an existing relationship.

We're going to use these cards to get to know each other. Spread the cards on the table and have everyone grab two cards that they are drawn to. It can be something that represents you, something you found interesting, or something that describes you. Have everyone introduce themselves, and explain the cards they chose.

**After Party Video:** Watch the After Party Video before you go on the discussion questions for this week:

[After Party Week 1- Greater Faith](#)

### Discussion Questions

**Question:** Have you ever taken a trip that shaped who you were? Maybe it was a cross country road trip, a move to a new city or state, a mission trip, a long camping trip, or something similar. Share about that trip and how it shaped you.

#### *Abraham as a Model*

**Leader:** The Bible presents several people as paragons of faith. Here is how the New Testament reflects on the kind of faith Abraham had:

**Read:** Read Hebrews 11:8-12: 17-19

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

<sup>17</sup>By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, <sup>18</sup>of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." <sup>19</sup>He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

**Question:** What things do you notice about Abraham's faith? What kinds of difficult things did he have to do or believe?

**Leader:** Abraham's life is described in Genesis 12-25. Here are some of the things that happened to him in those chapters:

- He left his homeland and family to journey to a land that God would reveal to him.
- He lived in hostile territory and worshipped God there.
- Faced hardships like famines, wars, and infertility.
- God blessed him with a son in his old age.
- He committed major sins but confessed them and God forgave him.
- God blessed him with peace and prosperity in his later years.
- God asked him to be willing to sacrifice his son.

**Question:** These were just some of the events of Abraham's life. How do you think events contributed to him becoming the kind of person described in the book of Hebrews? How did the journey shape who he became?

**Leader:** There is an overlap between Abraham's experience and the experience of being a disciple. Jesus invited people to "follow him." You have to move, to follow, to journey to experience the things God has for you, and to become the person God wants you to be. Those don't happen if we stay in the same place because faith, is a verb.

**Question:** Has God ever called you on a journey of faith before? What did he do with that time? What kinds of things changed in you through that journey?

**Question:** Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen". What does that teach us about how this faith journey will look? How will that force us to rely on God?

**Question:** What do you think God will do in Northshore by going on this journey as a church? What will we miss out on if we don't go?

**Question:** What do you think God could do in you by going on this journey of faith with Northshore? What could you potentially miss out on if you don't go?

**Prayer Time:** Some of us are ready to start the journey right now and others are probably still needing some time to think and become ready for a faith journey. Both of those reactions and everything in between are totally okay. Right now, we just want to ask God to open us up to whatever he wants to do in us through this faith journey.

*Leader Prayer: Lord we come before you now with our hopes and dreams, but also our fears and concerns. We ask you to meet us in those. Help us trust that you are in control. Help us trust you when we face the unexpected. Help us to have the courage to journey in faith with you so that we become the people and church that you want us to be. Amen.*