

starting[®] point

PART 3: TRUST

Conversations about faith often end up circling around a common question: If God is good and he loves the world, why isn't he doing anything about all of the suffering and evil? For thousands of years, followers of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam have claimed that God *has* done something or at least that he has begun something. And they all trace it back to the same man—Abraham. God made a series of promises to Abraham. And Abraham's response to those promises didn't just have implications for his own personal starting point of faith but yours and mine as well.

CONNECT

When you are confronted with an impossibly large problem, how do you tend to react?

DISCUSS THE PODCAST EPISODE

1. What does it say about God that he decided to wade into our messes instead of walking away?
2. Read **Genesis 12:1–4**. Given Abraham's circumstances, do you think it was hard for him to believe God's promises? Why or why not?
3. What do you think of God choosing someone as imperfect as Abraham?

LEARN

Watch the short video.

APPLY

After giving your group members an opportunity to share what stood out from the video, discuss the following questions as a group:

1. What are some common ways people try to earn God's acceptance? How does this contrast with what we are told about Abraham?
2. What experiences have you had that have made it difficult for you to trust God?
3. In what area of your life is God currently calling you to trust him? What can this group do to support you?



starting[®] point

BEFORE NEXT TIME

When sin stranded humankind in a sea of broken glass, God had a choice: hang “Out of Order” signs on our messes and move on or get involved. Because he cared, he chose to get involved. That meant he had to start somewhere. He reached out to one man—Abraham—and asked for his trust. In return for Abraham’s faith, God credited him with righteousness and cleared a path for a personal relationship. He makes the same offer to each of us

Be sure to listen to the “Rules” episode of *The Starting Point Podcast*.

PRAY

Take some time to thank God for a group where you can share your thoughts, ideas, and experiences about faith for the next eight sessions. Ask him to guide your discussions as you begin this journey together.

