

small group study guide

for the week of 02 11 2018 [DETOURS: The Promotion of Detours]

1. God promised Abraham he would make him into a great nation. Read Genesis 12:1–3, known as “The Promise.” Did Abraham take a detour? (Hagar, Ishmael) Genesis 16:1–4
2. Isaac, Abraham and Sara’s son, was the beginning to the fulfillment to Abraham’s destiny. Hagar was a detour. Isaac’s son Esau should have been the continuance of this lineage, but through another detour, his birthright was tricked away from him. Read Genesis 27:34–40. Abraham and Isaac’s destiny was tied to this birthright. Because Jacob, became Israel, God’s chosen people. It took many detours.
3. Jacob continued this destiny when he went to find a wife in his uncle’s land. Read Genesis 29:1–20. What did Jacob desire?
4. This detour was a disappointment, when Jacob (the deceiver) was deceived, Genesis 29:21–25. Sermon point one says you know that you are getting ready to come out of a detour and head toward your destiny (a great nation) when the Lord disappoints you when you thought he was coming through for you. Discuss how you think that the deceiver may have thought that his destiny was in trouble.
5. You know you are getting ready to come out of a detour and head to your destiny when the Lord skips over you when the opportunity comes. I bet Jacob felt he had been skipped over by Laban. Read Galatians 2:11–19. Paul called Peter out publicly. It seems like the Rock upon which the church would be built had been surpassed by Paul. Peter’s destiny was taking a detour. Did this cause an issue in the early church? Read 2nd Peter 3:15–16.
6. Peter got back on track to be the leader of the early church when Paul called him out publicly. Sermon point four says you know you are coming out of a detour and heading to your destiny when the Lord clearly confirms what he is doing by witnesses or circumstances. Read again Galatians 2:11–19. He got Peter back on message of emphasizing Grace vs the Law. Talk about the encounter in Galatians 5:12. This could have been a deal breaker, but God’s destiny for the church will always prevail.

Do not be discouraged when things do not go as you plan, but look for the proof that your detours are just God’s way of preparing you for your destiny.