



Plant • Grow • Harvest | Home Group Guide

“Israel” January 27, 2019 – Mark Swayze

GATHER (*choose one Gather question to share as everyone settles in to the group time*)

- **On a scale from 1 to 4, how has your week been?**
- **Where have you seen God this week?**
- **What is one joy you want to share with the group this week?**

PLANT

The third chapter in the biblical storyline is about a rescue operation begun by God to restore shalom to his fallen creation. Yet God doesn't go about fixing our world in the way we might expect. He doesn't send a superhero, or a politician, or a celebrity. Instead he uses a beautiful and dysfunctional family—kind of like yours. Israel is the most commonly used name for God's family. The name itself refers to those who wrestle with God.

- How is the name Israel a fitting title for God's family? How does it describe their calling as a people? How does it apply to *our* calling?

GROW/HARVEST

Why do you think God chooses unlikely people to do his work? What benefit might this have?

- Read Romans 3:23–24 aloud together from your Bibles. In this passage, Paul talks about the way in which we are all sinful. We have all fallen short of God's will for our lives. Yet there is hope. Paul also references the way in which God has begun to reverse the curse through Jesus. In light of the forgiveness offered through Christ, take a moment to reflect on the following questions together, or silently through a time of repentance and/or confession.
- Over the past days and weeks, how have the effects of the fall wormed their way into my own life? In what ways have I sensed the brokenness of this world?

PRAYERS

- Share prayer requests around the group and then either the leader or a volunteer can pray for the group. You may want to jot down those requests so you can remember to follow up next week.