

2008-09 BSP#3 Group Time Discussion

L – Low, M – Medium, and H – High, indicate the difficulty of a question. Group leaders should select questions that are challenging to their groups but not so difficult that their group members cannot answer.

(A) **“He Opened to Us the Scriptures” - Questions for Reflection and Discussion (Time available: 15 minutes. Do at either questions 1 & 2, or 2&3. Don’t do 3 if your group hasn’t done 2.)**

1. [M] In Genesis 15:7, Abraham asked the Lord how he would know for sure that the land God promised him would be his to possess. What was God’s response? Why do you think the things that God asked Abraham to do would be sufficient to assure Abraham?
2. [M] Abram fell into a deep sleep right at the moment when God came to speak to him (Genesis 15:12-13), followed by the consummation of the covenant (15:17-18). Identify two other divine initiatives in the Scripture in which the human party also fell asleep when God was about to act.
3. [H] To expand on question 2 above, what do you think is the underlying message of these three “sleeping” incidents?

(B) **“Did Not Our Hearts Burn?” – Question for Group Meditation and Prayer.**
(Suggested time: 10 minutes)

In Genesis 15:13-14, God re-assured Abram that a great nation would come from him, but its greatness would come after 400 years of enslavement and oppression, i.e. after a long time of humiliation. It is not easy to count on glory when all we feel now is smallness, lack of power, and bondage. Think about the places in your life now where you are being humbled. Can you thank God now for the good fruit that will come of it, even before you see it?