

Living Life Large: Lessons From Old Testament Heroes”

Week 3: Abraham

Genesis 12

THE BIG IDEA: Faith does not arrive in our lives fully mature but rather is something that God grows in us over many years of walking with him.

OPEN WITH PRAYER

GETTING STARTED: What is your most valuable material possession and why?

LEARNING & APPLYING GOD’S WORD

Abraham is a huge figure in the Old Testament and the 3 major world religions of Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Abraham is also the great example of faith in the New Testament. The apostle Paul calls Abraham the father of faith. He is talked about in the books of Romans, Galatians and Hebrews. Let’s look at Abraham’s life and see what it tells us about faith.

Together, read Genesis 12:1-20

1. What does God command and promise Abram (vv. 1-3)?
2. Abraham heard the call of God while he was serving other gods. What might have been his initial fears and reservations?
3. Describe Abraham’s response to God’s call (vv. 4-6).
4. Why do you think God reassured Abraham in Canaan (v. 7).
5. What effect does the famine have on Abraham (v.10)?
6. What causes Abraham to tell the lie about his wife Sarai (vv. 10-13)?
7. What does this story tell you about faith?
8. Abraham and Sarai waited 24 years for God to fulfill his promise and give them their son, Isaac. Now read Genesis 22:1-19. What does this story tell you about faith? What do you suppose happened to Abraham’s faith between the story about lying to Pharaoh and being willing to sacrifice the son for which he had waited 24 years?

LIVING OUT “REAL LIFE”

9. How do crises and tough circumstances affect your faith and obedience to God?

10. God uses ordinary, broken people to do his work. Do you ever feel like you are not “good enough” or “religious enough” to be used by God? What does Abraham’s life tell you about the people he uses to accomplish his work in the world?

11. Sometimes we get impatient with the growth we see in our faith. What good news do we learn from Abraham’s life and God’s faithfulness?

SHARING AND PRAYER (Prayer Requests)

Take some time to share prayer requests, where you need to find God’s grace and peace. Be sure to give thanks for each other and pray for one another’s needs. When we pray together, we find the power of God.