

RELIANCE IN BATTLES



Reliance in Battles

Lesson 1 – Faith

Ice Breaker

How often and where did you attend church as a child?

Prayer

Introduction

Faith defined – Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Faith journey defined - a life of growing communion with God, a life of increasing conformity to God, a life of continuous abiding in God and a life of principled obedience to God

Throughout our lesson let's agree that Abram = Abraham and Sarai = Sarah.

Summary

Abraham – A Faith Journey Begins

The World in Desperate _____

Genesis 11:27-32

This is the account of Terah's family line. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot. While his father Terah was still alive, Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans, in the land of his birth. Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milkah; she was the daughter of Haran, the father of both Milkah and Iskah. Now Sarai was childless because she was not able to conceive. Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Harran, they settled there. Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Harran.

Takeaway - Our Old Life Had its _____

Genesis 12:1-3

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

"I will make you into a great nation,

and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,

and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,

and whoever curses you I will curse;

and all peoples on earth

will be blessed through you."

Takeaway - Our Faith Journey Begins _____

Genesis 12:4-9

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord. Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

Takeaway - We Are to _____ on Our Faith Journey

Let's talk about it

1. What was the condition of the world in Abram's time?
2. How is Abram's situation similar to the world today?
3. What do you find surprising about Abram's decision to leave his home country?

4. Why do you think Abram took the faith step?

5. Did Abram obey God completely?

New Testament Faith Journey

1. A life of growing _____ with Christ

1 Corinthians 1:9

God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord

Philippians 3:8-10

What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

2. A life of increasing _____ to Christ

2 Corinthians 3:18

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

3. A life of _____ abiding in Christ

John 15:1-11

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

4. A life of principled _____ to Christ

John 14:21

Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

1 John 3:2-6

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

Let's talk about it.

1. Describe your faith journey?
2. What can we apply from Abram's faith steps to our faith journey?
3. How do we continue to grow in faith?

Wrap up

Commune with, conform to, abide in and obey Christ!

Reliance in Battles

Lesson 2 – Failure

Ice Breaker

What is one sport, school or friendship failure that you have had in your life?

Prayer

Summary

Genesis 12:10

Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe.

Takeaway - A Faith _____

Takeaway: God uses tests to _____ us to ourselves.

Genesis 12:11-16 and Genesis 20:1-2

As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are. When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will let you live. Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you." When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that Sarai was a very beautiful woman. And when Pharaoh's officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace. He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels.

Genesis 20:1-2

Abraham journeyed from there to the Negev region and settled between Kadesh and Shur. While he lived as a temporary resident in Gerar, Abraham said about his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." So Abimelech, king of Gerar, sent for Sarah and took her.

Takeaway - A Faith _____

Genesis 12:17-20

But the Lord struck Pharaoh and his household with severe diseases because of Sarai, Abram's wife. So Pharaoh summoned Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why didn't you tell me that she was your wife? Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her to be my wife? Here is your wife! Take her and go!" Pharaoh gave his men orders about Abram, and so they expelled him, along with his wife and all his possessions.

Genesis 20:3-7

But God appeared to Abimelech in a dream at night and said to him, "You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken, for she is someone else's wife." Now Abimelech had not gone near her. He said, "Lord, would you really slaughter an innocent nation? Did Abraham not say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' I have done this with a clear conscience and with innocent hands!" Then in the dream God replied to him, "Yes, I know that you have done this with a clear conscience. That is why I have kept you from sinning against me and why I did not allow you to touch her. But now give back the man's wife. Indeed he is a prophet and he will pray for you; thus you will live. But if you don't give her back, know that you will surely die along with all who belong to you."

Takeaway - A God _____

Let's talk about it

1. Why was Abram's decision to go to Egypt a failure of faith?
2. What should Abram have done when he was faced with the problem?
3. What should Abram have told the Egyptians when they questioned him about Sarai?
4. How did Abram move on from his failure?
5. What did God do to intervene for Abram?

New Testament Examples

Peter's failure

Matthew 26:69-75

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!" After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away." Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times."

Paul's comments on failure

Romans 7:15-20

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

Let's talk about it

1. What was Peter's failure?
2. Why did he deny that he knew Jesus?
3. What should have Peter done?
4. What was the outcome of Peter's failure?
5. What is Paul saying in Romans 7:15-20?
6. What causes you to not trust God?
7. How do we increase our faith?
8. How do we overcome a failure of faith?
9. Can you share a time in your life where there was a failure of faith and what was the outcome?

Wrap up

Everyone fails except JESUS!

Reliance in Battles – Life of Abraham

Lesson 3 – Decisions

Ice Breaker

What is one decision you made that turned out to be a bad decision?

Prayer

Introduction

Abraham – Decisions

Summary

Genesis 13:5-9

Now Lot, who was traveling with Abram, also had flocks, herds, and tents. But the land could not support them while they were living side by side. Because their possessions were so great, they were not able to live alongside one another. So there were quarrels between Abram's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen. (Now the Canaanites and the Perizzites were living in the land at that time.) Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no quarreling between me and you, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are close relatives. Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself now from me. If you go to the left, then I'll go to the right, but if you go to the right, then I'll go to the left."

Takeaway - Our True _____ Comes Out When Things Are Going Well

There are Two Kinds of _____ .

1. _____ Wisdom

Genesis 13:10-11

Lot looked up and saw the whole region of the Jordan. He noticed that all of it was well-watered (before the Lord obliterated Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, all the way to Zoar. Lot chose for himself the whole region of the Jordan and traveled toward the east. So the relatives separated from each other.

2. _____ Wisdom

Genesis 13:14-18

After Lot had departed, the Lord said to Abram, "Look from the place where you stand to the north, south, east, and west. I will give all the land that you see to you and your descendants forever. And I will make your descendants like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone is able to count the dust of the earth, then your descendants also can be counted. Get up and walk throughout the land, for I will give it to you." So Abram moved his tents and went to live by the oaks of Mamre in Hebron, and he built an altar to the Lord there.

Takeaway: Good decisions always include the _____ dimension.

Let's talk about it

1. Why did Abram and Lot have to go their separate directions?
2. Why did Abram allow Lot to choose?
3. How did Lot decide where to choose?
4. How did Lot's decision turnout?
5. How did Abram's decision to let Lot choose workout for Abram?

Making Godly Decisions

1. Pray for God's guidance in seeking his will.

Proverbs 16:3

Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

1 Corinthians 10:31

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

2. Praise God for his blessings

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

3. Seek Answers in Scripture.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

4. Use your Christ-redeemed mind to analyze the situation

Romans 12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

5. Seek godly counsel.

Proverbs 11:14

For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers.

Proverbs 15:22

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

6. Analyze your motivations.

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

1 John 1:8

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

7. Accept that the answer may not be as clear as you desire.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Let's talk about it

1. Which of the seven steps do you have the hardest time doing?
2. Do you have some other scriptures that you like to use when you are trying to make a decision?
3. What happens when you make a bad decision?
4. Can you give an example of when you have followed these steps to make a decision?
5. What other truths have helped you make God-honoring decisions?

Wrap-up

Reliance in Battles
Lesson 4 – Does God Need My Help

Ice Breaker

Share one time that you tried to help your child when they didn't want your help?

Prayer

Abraham – Decided to Help God

Summary

Learning to _____ on God

Genesis 15:1-7

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so, a servant in my household will be my heir." Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."

Takeaway – When Waiting on God Remember His _____.

Takeaway – When Waiting on God Grow Deeper in His _____.

Genesis 16:1-4a

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; so, she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said. So, after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian s slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

Takeaway - Running Ahead of God Can Cause Major _____.

Genesis 16:4b-6

When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me. "Your slave is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.

Let's talk about it

1. Was Abram getting impatient with God about his heir?
2. How did God respond to Abram?
3. Why did Sarai tell Abram that he could sleep with her servant?
4. Why did Abram agree to sleep with Hagar?
5. What happened after Hagar became pregnant?
6. Why was Sarai mistreating Hagar?
7. Who did Sarai blame for the issues she was having with Hagar?
8. What did Abram tell Sarai to do?

Does God Need Us?

Two truths

1. God can do whatever he wants
2. God asks us to do things

God Wants Us to Participate with Him

Matthew 28:18-20

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters

God Doesn't Need our Help to Accomplish His Will

Act 17:24-25

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything.

Psalms 50:12

If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it.

Psalms 115:3

Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.

Psalms 135:6

The LORD does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths

Let's discuss it

1. Why does God allow us to partner with Him?
2. What is God asking you to do in conjunction with Him?
3. Was there a time you grew impatient waiting for God and just acted without Him?
4. How do you balance taking action because you want something vice doing what God wants you to join Him in doing?
5. Could God just speak to your neighbor or family member about the Gospel without your help? Why does He want to use you?

Wrap-up

Reliance in Battles

Lesson 5 – Sacrifice

Ice Breaker

What is the longest time you ever fasted from all food, not including water?

Prayer

Abraham – Sacrifice

Summary

A _____

Genesis 22:1-2

Sometime later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

Takeaway - When God Asks Us to Let Go of Something it is to _____
Our Faith.

Abraham's Faith _____

Genesis 22:3-5

Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

Modeling Sacrifice for _____

Genesis 22:6-8

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

God Rewards _____

Genesis 22:10-14

Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

Genesis 22:15-18

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Let's discuss it

1. What was Abraham's relationship with Isaac like?
2. What did God ask Abraham to do?
3. Does the sacrifice of Isaac seem in character for God?
4. How did Abraham know that it was God asking him to sacrifice Isaac?
5. Why did God tell Abraham to sacrifice his son?
6. Can you relate this story to God choosing to sacrifice His son for us?

Sacrifices That Please God

1. Sacrifice of your lips

Hebrews 13:15-16

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!
“Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counsel
or?” “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?”
For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be the glory forever! Amen.

2. Sacrifice of your life

Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

3. Sacrifice of your money/things

Romans 12:8b

If it is giving, then give generously;

Romans 12:13

Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

4. Sacrifice of your love

Romans 12:9-21

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," n says the Lord. On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Let's talk about it

1. Are we required to sacrifice for God to love us?
2. If salvation is free, then what is the purpose of sacrifice?
3. Can you share an example of the sacrifice of your lips?
4. How would you define "living sacrifice"?
5. Can you share an example of the sacrifice of your love?
6. Which one of the four sacrifices are you best at and which one is your hardest?

Wrap-up