



Living Water
Church

Diving Deeper: A Gather Group discussion guide
or personal devotional guide



Faith or Flesh?

Introduction: God calls Abram out of his family to follow Him. The election of Abram will be the line of the Messiah. It will be through Abram that all peoples of the earth will be blessed. Abram heeds the call of God, but also takes his nephew Lot with him. The story of Abraham and Lot is a story of living by flesh or faith.

Text: Read Genesis 12-19

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: Discuss/Write about your family growing up. Were your parents Christians? Were you raised in a family that was directed by faith, or lived for the world (flesh)?
2. Read Joshua 24:2 Understanding Abraham's upbringing, what does this mean for you? Are you trapped in the same cycle of your upbringing? What are things that God has called you away from?
3. Genesis 12:7-8 Why is it important to worship God?
4. Bethel means "house of God" Ai means "heap or ruin" As Christians we live between the tension of the two. We are called to walk by faith. However, the Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. Jesus said that we are to be "in" the world but not "of" the world. Discuss/write about the importance of knowing that the flesh is always a danger to faith?
5. A famine came to the land and Abraham travels to Egypt. He was ruled by fear, rather than faith. Discuss/Write about times when you have tried to fix things in your own power, rather than trusting God?
6. The outcome of Abraham's decision was not good. It brought a curse on the Pharaoh. They left with gifts that would cause conflict between Abraham and Lot. They took servants with them, one being Hagar. The choices we make can have consequences that we don't feel until years later. Write/discuss the reality of consequences.
7. Abraham went back to Bethel, repented, and called on the name of the Lord. What does the believer do when they sin? Repent and trust God. Will God forgive us of our sin? Will the consequences of our poor choices always go away if we ask forgiveness? How do you see this truth lived out in Abraham's life? What consequences haunted him years later from him going to Egypt?
8. Genesis 13:10—How did Lot view Sodom? Genesis 13:13 How did God view Sodom? Genesis 13:11—Who chose to live in Sodom? Read Genesis 14, 18:16 thru chapter 19. What was the consequence of Lot's choice? List possible outcomes of living by the flesh? (Lose testimony, family, etc.)
9. Read Genesis 15. When is it counted to Abraham as being "righteous"?
10. Who cuts the covenant in Gen. 15? This is a unilateral covenant that God himself cuts. Who then, is responsible for keeping this covenant and why is that important?
11. Who is the promise seed of Abraham? Galatians 3:16 How is the world blessed because of this?

Think About it:

God calls us out of our sin to live for Him. The believer is to walk by faith and not by sight. There are many times we are tempted to walk in the flesh. When we do . . . it is never good. The spouse who has an affair, the kid who tries the drug, the woman who lies at the office etc. The story can go on and on. The flesh leads to heap and ruin. Paul tells us that if we will walk by the Spirit we will not carry out the desires of the flesh. If we will walk in faith every day it will keep us on the right path. If you find yourself heading in the wrong direction—repent and call on the Lord.

Moving Forward:

Take time each day to call on the Lord and give Him praise. Seek his path and walk in His way. Trust Him. If you are tempted, defeat the desire of the flesh and walk by faith. If you have wronged someone, make it right. If you are walking in the flesh, step into faith. Each night, look up into the heavens and see the stars—thank God for the promise He made to Abraham and that Christ is the promised seed. Thank the Lord each night for His great salvation. If you have children, have a family devotion one night as you explain the eternal promise of God through the night sky.