



**Imagine More: A 5-week journey of  
Growing in faith like Abraham**

**WEEK 1**

**"The Great Interruption"**

**Genesis 12:1-9**

**Key Word: Trust**

**WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE**

**"For we live by faith, not by sight."**

**2 Corinthians 5:7**

## Gathering & Welcome:

### God Challenge Stories

### God Challenge Prayer

“God increase our faith and help us all to respond with YES to your challenges. Amen.”

### Warm-up Question:



Describe a trust fall and share why it went wrong or went well. Humorous stories welcome.

OR

Why you like them or hate them?

### Discussion:

How would you describe or picture Abraham? Or What do you find interesting about his life?

Read Genesis 12:1-9 as a group.

Pastor Shawn shared how Abraham had to leave the comfortable, embrace the unknown and trust God. Lets take some time to talk through that.

### Leave

What do you think was going through Abraham’s mind when he faced his God challenge?

What would you struggle with if God asked you to leave everything behind?

- What would be the hardest for you to leave and why?
- What are some ways we try and negotiate with God when He asks us to do hard things?

## Embrace

What are some good things about the familiar?

In what ways does the familiar limit us?

What are some tips you have found helpful in letting go so you could embrace an unknown situation?

## Trust

What do you think Pastor Shawn meant by “to the measure we surrender all of who we are to all of what God is asking of us will be the measure of our blessing”?

What are some of the ways that people tend to think of “blessings”? What are some the ways the Bible describes blessings?

Where do you see some of these biblical blessings in your life?

## Read Hebrews 11:1

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

- Sum this scripture up in your own words:

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It’s been said that obedience is the evidence of our faith. Read James 2:14-24. So, then what does your obedience say about your faith? Quietly reflect on that this week.

- Why might someone hesitate to obey Him?
- What could be some helpful ways such a person could overcome this hesitation?
- Where is God calling you to trust Him more deeply?

## Prayer

## Going Deeper

### Matthew 24:45-47

*<sup>45</sup> The trustworthy servant is the one whom the master puts in charge of all the servants of his household; it is the trustworthy servant who not only oversees all the work, but also ensures the servants are properly fed and cared for. <sup>46</sup> And it is, of course, crucial that a servant who is given such responsibility performs his responsibility to his master's standards—so when the master returns, he finds his trust has been rewarded. <sup>47</sup> For then the master will put that good servant in charge of all his possessions. (Voice)*

Many of us come from a church culture that is steeped in the same standard of performance in use by the world. From this vantage point one could read this passage and conclude that I need to be good in order to get the Master's favor and get ahead. However, trust is fundamentally a relational word. It has more to do with who we are verses what we do. It implies that someone else can count on you because you care about what they care about.

Going back to the trust falls we spoke of earlier. It requires trust because you need people to catch you and not drop you. In those moments you don't want people catching you who are only there to impress others or merely interested in *their* own well-being. You want people who genuinely care about *your* wellbeing. This is the kind of trust that flows from being a caring person.



No one will hand over all their possessions to someone who is only interested in doing good in order to be noticed or liked, absorbed only with their own interests and advancement, or competing to be the best. The trustworthy servant is the one who loves what God loves. We come through and follow through because we genuinely care about what God cares about.

*“Faithfulness without love is empty, and there is no wisdom in it—only an empty standard. But if we are faithful because we love, we are living from Father's heart. What a privilege! We get to care about what he cares about; and through this, even our most menial tasks change the world and bring in his kingdom.” Tony Stoltzfus*

What do you find most satisfying about your journey with God?

What do your current feelings tell you about your level of trusting God?

What is stopping you from trusting God more deeply?

- If someone came to you and told you what you just wrote down, what are a couple of things you'd suggest for them to try?
- Which of those options will you put into action this week?

On a scale of 1-10 where are you in loving the things God loves and caring about the things God cares about?

- What are 2 or 3 ways you could move a step or two closer to God's heart?
- Which one will you pursue?

### **Prayer challenge**

Find a quiet place where you can be with Jesus uninterrupted for a while. Begin by telling Him what you value about the trust He has built in your relationship with Him? Then ask Him:

- "Jesus, what do you value about the trust in our relationship?" (be quiet for a while and write down what comes to mind).
- "Jesus, in what ways do I make you happy with the way I trust you?" (be quiet and write down what comes to mind).

End your time by asking Jesus to guide your steps as you walk forward in trusting Him more.

# **Imagine More: A 5-week journey of Growing in faith like Abraham**

## **WEEK 2**

**“Getting Back on Track”**

**Genesis 12:10-13:18**

**Key Word: Honor**

### **WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE**

**“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,  
and all these things will be given to you as well.”**

**Matthew 6:33**

## Gathering & Welcome:

### God Challenge Stories:

### God Challenge Prayer:

“God increase our faith and help us all to respond with YES to your challenges. Amen.”

### Warm-up Question:



We all have great hindsight. What is something you regret?

OR

What do you wish you could tell your younger self?

### Discussion:

Pastor Shawn said “Proceeding from instinct rather than seeking God’s counsel becomes a pattern in Abraham’s mistakes. Many of us make the same mistake when faced with uncertainty.”

- What can be good about your instincts? Why can those instincts not always be trusted?

Compromise can be good when two parties are trying to reach an agreement. Compromise can be harmful when we are trying to twist what God has asked of us.

- What are some ways you’ve heard people rationalize things to get their way?
- Why do you think it’s easier to spot compromise in others before we see it in our self?

### Abraham’s Compromises

#### **Compromise # 1** allowing old lifestyles to co-exist

Genesis 12:1 states God’s unique mandate for Abraham was to leave his relatives. Yet in verse 4 it says Lot went with Abraham. So perhaps Abraham thought “technically not TAKING him, just allowing him to come along.” (See Deeper regarding how this is not about separating from people but separating from old patterns and mindsets.)

#### **Compromise #2** rational concerns about the unknown

Genesis 12:10 records that Abraham left during a drought. One wonders if rational concerns about his survival diverted him away from the promise. Regardless, he left.

### **Compromise #3 fear and selfishness**

Genesis 12:12-13 Abraham's fear and selfishness led to placing his wellbeing above his own wife's welfare.

- Of these three compromises, which one can you relate to and why?

### **Seek God Afresh**

- What is your favorite way to seek God? What do you enjoy about seeking God?
- On a scale of 1 (running from God), to 10 (being in heaven) where would you say you are in your relationship with God today?
- Where might you need to seek God afresh? What would that look like for you?

### **Make Things Right and Help Others Succeed**

Genesis 13: 8-9 shows how Abraham jumped to resolve the dispute between him and Lot. He did this by preferring Lot over himself. This is a perfect example of what honor looks like.

#### **Read Philippians 2:3-4**

*"Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand."* (The Message)

- How would you explain this passage in your own words?

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### **Listen, Learn and Honor God**

When we honor God and honor the people in our life then our ability to hear God is restored because our relationship with God is restored. Pastor Shawn asked us to consider, "If I am not hearing from the Lord, do I need to go back and make right the ways I have dishonored my relationship with Him?"

Take time to write down your thoughts regarding the following questions:

- Where do you need to make something right with God? How will you do that?
- What can you practically do that will place a person's concerns above your own?

### **Prayer:**

## Going Deeper

### Was Terah dead when Abraham left...and why does it matter?

Genesis 11:31-32 tells us Terah headed out from Ur for Canaan. Although Terah began well, he failed to go the distance when he chose to settle in Haran, where he remained until his death at 205 years old. At first glance we think Abraham has little reason to remain in Canaan. After all his father has just died, why not strike out on a new journey. But something more poignant is at play. Abraham's God-Challenges occur while Terah is still alive! Here is the chronology:

- Terah is 70 years old when Abraham is born (Genesis 11:26)
- Abraham responds to God's first challenge at 75 (Genesis 12:4) thus Terah's 145
- This gives Terah another 135 years before he dies at 205 (Genesis 11:32)

Here is why it matters. Abraham had to separate himself from a mindset and model that failed to go the distance. This does NOT mean we are to separate ourselves from people or loved ones (Our battle is not with flesh and blood—Ephesians 6:12; we are to take every *thought* captive—2 Corinthians 10:5). What it *does* mean is to consider if we are being held back by a mindset, thought process or a model of behavior that keeps us from stepping forward in what God has asked of us.

You see, Terah allowed circumstances to be God's direction for him. When things were favorable in Haran, he concluded this is where he needed to stop. Even though it is clear God prompted him to set out for Canaan (Genesis 15:7). Are we, like Terah, seeking comfort and security over obedience?

Anytime we lose sight of God  
we will always settle for less.



Abraham separated himself from the pattern that sought comfort in “this is good enough” rather than taking the risk of fully chasing after God. Abraham was drawn to the promise of a new beginning, a new history, a new destiny...he was drawn to chasing after God.

Fear and selfishness is found not only in facing new circumstances but it is also embedded in our own development. God will use what we face to surface those fears and selfishness in order to develop us. He will bring these issues to our attention so we will chase after Him. God is concerned about the closeness of our relationship with Him. The question is will we chase after Him in a fresh and new way. When and where we start to see God, and therefore ourselves, differently is the very time and place our spiritual transformation is taking place.

## Reflection & Prayer challenge:

Remember, God is concerned about you and is fully committed and vested in the closeness of your relationship with Him. To help you with that, **get a journal, or several pieces of paper, a pen and your Bible.** Find a quiet place where you can be with Jesus uninterrupted for a while.

- Begin by inviting the Holy Spirit to direct your thoughts (Jesus said He would leave the Holy Spirit to guide us into truth—John 14).
- Read Matthew 6:25-33. What is Jesus saying to you about how you are seeking Him first?
  - What is going well?
  - What is distracting you or holding you back?
  - Is it a mindset or model of behavior you need to leave behind?
  - What course of action will you take to do that?
- Journal where you feel things have gotten off course for you in your journey with God.
  - Where have you lost sight of God?
  - Is there an area of fear or selfishness that is keeping you from honoring God?
- Ask Him to direct you in how you could begin to “chase after God”.
  - Write down what comes to mind.
  - Tell a trusted friend so they can pray for you and support you.
  - Develop your plan and follow through...one step at a time.

End your time by asking Jesus to remind you to follow through in honoring Him by fully seeking Him first and putting others above yourself.

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## **WEEK 3**

**“Lasting Investments”**

**Genesis 14-15:1**

**Key Word: Invest**

### **WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE**

**“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”**

**Matthew 6:21**

## Gathering & Welcome:

### God Challenge Stories

#### God Challenge Prayer:

“God increase our faith and help us all to respond with YES to your challenges. Amen.”

#### Warm-up Question:



What are some things people value?

What is something you value and why?

#### Discussion:

If you value something it stands to reason that you will put resources into it.

- If you could see where a person puts their resources could you tell what they value?
  - Name some examples.
- What are some resources you put into something you value?

Some people call putting resources into something they value as “investing”.

- How are investments and values linked?

#### Investing in Your Spiritual Vitality: Training

In Genesis 14:14 it says Abraham “called out the 318 *trained* men...” (emphasis mine). Pastor Shawn said, “Training is essential to live the victorious life God intends for His people.” It’s not unusual for people to invest in a healthy lifestyle of diet and exercise. These people value their own bodies and want to treat it well.

- How is our view of our self-value linked to investing in ourselves?
- Do you think people value themselves enough to invest in their spiritual health & strength?
  - Why might someone not do this? Why might someone do this?
- What are some ways you currently invest in your spiritual training?

After listening to the group share, write down some new ways you’ll explore.

## Investing in the Kingdom of God: Tithing

God is after our heart not our money. God knows the pull money can have on us. In fact, many a person's money can hold their hearts in a prison. Andy Stanly asks, "Why should I trust in riches when I can trust in a God who richly supplies all my needs?" At the heart (no pun intended) of the matter is one of trust. Will we trust what we can see in our bank account? Or will we trust in God who gives us the strength and skills to work and supplies us with everything we need?

- Why do you think money has such a strong hold on us?
- What happens to you when you give something away?

GOD IS AFTER YOUR HEART  
NOT YOUR MONEY.  
BUT YOUR MONEY HOLDS  
THE KEY TO YOUR HEART.

Pastor Shawn said, "the purpose of tithing is to teach us to put God first in our lives. Tithing is the spiritual practice of giving back to God the first 10% of all we earn."

Here are a few places tithing is mentioned in the Bible:

- In Genesis 14:17-20 it says that Abraham gave the priest Melchizedek 10% of all he had.  
So, tithing came before the law was given to Moses.
- In Leviticus 27 tithing is listed as something the people were commanded to follow.  
So, tithing continued under the law of Moses.
- In Matthew 23 Jesus commends the practice of tithing.  
So, Jesus reinforced the practice of tithing.
- In Hebrews 7 the ministry of Jesus is shown to be far superior than Melchizedek's to whom Abraham paid tithes. Since it is a greater ministry it deserves a greater tribute.  
So, tithing is the starting point of New Testament giving.

We are called to be like God in all things and God is extremely generous. Tithing trains us to be generous like God. **But most importantly, tithing opens our heart for more of God.**

**Read Matthew 6:21** "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

- How would you explain this passage to someone?
- Do you believe God is after your heart?
- How could tithing set a person free from fear of the future and control?
- In what way does money hold you back from chasing after God?

You may not be near a tithe yet. Decide to start somewhere with consistent giving. Develop a plan with God in growing towards a tithe and then continue in your journey of generosity.

**Prayer:**

## Going Deeper

When I was a kid, I remember my sisters taking in a stray cat. It was a black and white tabby who pretty much owned the neighborhood.

One of my siblings came up with the name of Kitty. Pretty original, right? We all fell in love with Kitty. That is everyone except my dad. He really did not like that cat. He

insisted that the cat remain outdoors, and that we would need to take care of it. So, my sisters bought the cat food and we all took turns caring for Kitty. Eventually Kitty was allowed to come indoors from time to time, but never allowed in my parents' bedroom and was still pretty much an outdoor cat.

As cats are known to do, Kitty was warming himself on the road one cool evening when a car unexpectedly ran over him and crushed his head. We all ran outside to find Kitty barely holding on. My dad gently picked up his limp body and took him inside. We found a vet who was open. That vet did an amazing job of healing Kitty who lived many more years and gave all of us great delight.

But a most interesting thing happened the day Kitty came home from the vet. My dad took him straight to the foot of *his* bed and let Kitty sleep right there! Kitty was now my Dad's kitty too. He had invested a lot of money into that cat and his big ol' heart followed right along.

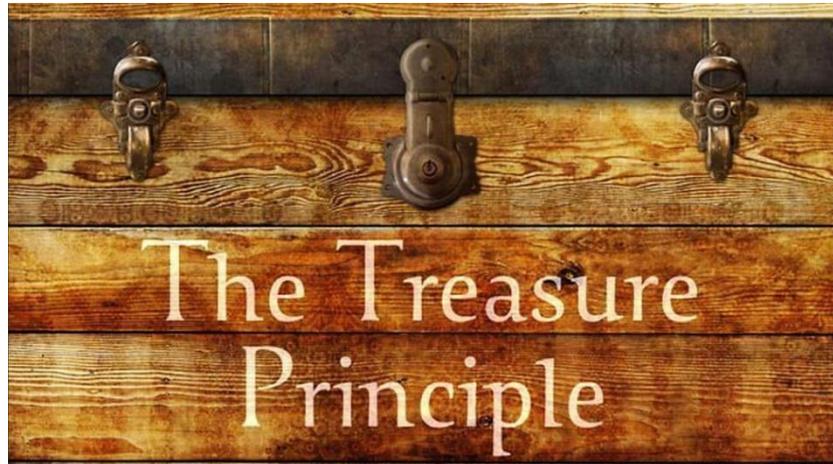
As humans we are wired so that our affections follow where we put our resources. The more resources the greater the affection. Whether that is a cat, a classic car, or our family. The more we invest in something the more valuable it becomes to us.

## Reflection & Prayer Challenge

**Remember, God is after your heart not your money.** People seek after all kinds of treasure. The treasure they seek determines where their heart and life ends up. This is why God wants us to seek after Him and to make Him our treasure. So that we end up closer in relationship with Him.

To help you take this deeper, like last week **get a journal, or several pieces of paper, a pen and your Bible.** Invite the Holy Spirit to direct your thoughts (Jesus said He would leave the Holy Spirit to guide us into truth—John 14).

- Take time to reflectively read Matthew 6:19-21



- What is God bringing to your attention in this passage?
  
- Write down the places where you put your treasure. Carefully think about the attitude/emotion of your heart as you do that.
  - What did you notice? Is there joy, guilt, reluctance, excitement?
  
  - What do your emotions tell you about your investments?
  
  - Where is the Lord challenging you to make a change so that you open more of your heart to Him?
  
- What do you think might happen to your heart if you were to intentionally and consistently give more generously to God?
  - Take time to pray about your strategy to do this and write down the measurable steps you will take.
  
  - Who is the one trusted person you will share this with? This is so they can support you in prayer as you step towards this challenge and celebrate with you when you reach your goal.

In Genesis 15:1 God said, "I am your shield and your very great reward." Pastor Shawn asked, "how would you make God your shield and great reward?" Write down your thoughts.

End your time by telling Jesus your heart belongs to Him and then tell Him how you feel about Him being your shield and very great reward.

# **Imagine More: A 5-week journey of Growing in faith like Abraham**

## **WEEK 4**

**“I See You”**

**Genesis 16-17:5**

**Key Word: God Sees Me**

### **WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE**

**“She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: ‘You are the God who sees me,’ for she said, ‘I have now seen the One who sees me.’”**

**Genesis 16:13**

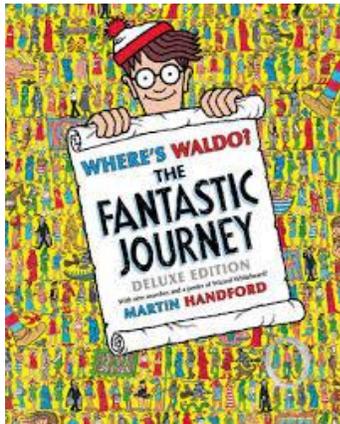
## Gathering & Welcome:

### God Challenge Stories

### God Challenge Prayer

“God increase our faith and help us all to respond with YES to your challenges. Amen.”

## Warm-up Question:



**Where's Waldo?** We've all had fun searching for Waldo. It's the best when you hear someone shout "I found him!" Better still when *you* find him.

Tell of a time when you found something you lost and the emotion you felt when you finally found it.

OR

Share when someone saw you & the difference it made in your life.

## Discussion:

### God Finds Me

Genesis 16:7 says "the angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness...".

- How does this passage speak to you?

Genesis 16:8 says And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

- What do you think it meant to Hagar that the angel called her by name?
- Even though the Angel knew, why do you think he asked her those two questions?
- Where have you come from and where are you going on your journey with God?

## God Will Redeem My Situation

Genesis 16:9-12 describes the challenge God gives to Hagar and the generosity of God's promise in return.

- Why do you think God asks us to do something in order for us to receive His promise?

**Read Romans 8:28** *"So we are convinced that every detail of our lives is continually woven together to fit into God's perfect plan of bringing good into our lives, for we are his lovers who have been called to fulfill his designed purpose."* (The Passion)

- Put this into your own words using your own life situation.

## I Now See God Who Sees Me

Genesis 16:13 says "She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: 'You are the God who sees me,' for she said, 'I have now seen the One who sees me.'"

- Share a personal story of when you felt God saw you when no one else was looking?
  
- What did this do for your connection with God?
  
- What does God's name "the God who sees me" mean to you right now?

A parent can instantly hear and see their child in a crowd because their child is of extreme value to them. They know their child.

- What does this fact tell us, imperfect parents, about how our perfect Heavenly Father views each of us?
  
- What do you think of this statement? "If I know I am important than I know what I do is equally important."

## Prayer:

## Going Deeper

This week I'd like to introduce you to a devotional by Tony Stoltzfus from "Questions for Jesus"

*<sup>25</sup> And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. <sup>26</sup> She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. <sup>27</sup> When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup> because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." <sup>29</sup> Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.*

*<sup>30</sup> At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"*

*<sup>31</sup> "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'"*

*<sup>32</sup> But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup> Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup> He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." Mark 5:25-34 (NIV)*



When Jesus began looking for who touched him, the woman's heart sank to her toes. He knew she had violated the rule, again. *You idiot!* Her bleeding made her ritually unclean, and anyone she touched became unclean. Yet her longing to be rid of that 12 years' curse of suffering was so powerful that she took the risk, and actually touched the prophet.

She hadn't wanted anyone to know she was there—that's why she touched his clothes instead of asking to be healed. She didn't even attempt to graze his skin—just the fringe of his robe, trying to keep her shame and dirtiness as far from him as possible. Then she could go home and be rid of this curse forever, and live a normal life. No one would ever know. So she dared the forbidden thing and secretly touched Jesus—and now she was found out.

Jesus' eyes scanned over the crowd, looking for her, as renewed shame washed over her. Her bleeding wasn't just a disease of the body—it was a curse on the soul, and a communicable one at that. And this time she had infected God's anointed.

She believed in Jesus' power to heal, so she also believed he would inevitably discover her—she couldn't hide from the judgment she deserved. So she gulped and stepped forward, afraid to look in his eyes, literally shaking with fear. In a quavering voice she told him everything, the whole shocked crowd listening, then braced herself to endure another brick in the wall of rejection she'd experienced for years.

But to her amazement Jesus smiled at her, called her daughter, even said, "*your* faith has made you well..." Instead of rejection, she received acceptance; instead of shame, honor; instead of punishment, peace.

Write down a memory where you felt rejected or shamed. Then receive what Jesus says to the woman as if said to you: "Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

Ask Jesus the following questions and write down what comes to your mind:

- "Jesus, where has my faith made something happen? Where are you proud of me for believing?"
  
- "Jesus, what was in your heart when you looked for the person who was healed? Why was it important to you to find her?" "Why am I important to you?"
  
- "Jesus, an area I feel ashamed about is \_\_\_\_\_. It is hard to come to you like this, but here I am. How do you want to release your healing to me?"

God sees us because He is our Heavenly Father. God sees us because we are important and of extreme value to Him. So also, is our partnership with Him. 2 Corinthians 6:1 tells us the normal Christian life is one of a partnership with God. What kingdom work can you see yourself doing WITH God?

End your time by thanking Jesus for not only seeing you but also for releasing His healing to you and for inviting you to partner with Him in His kingdom work.

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## **WEEK 5**

### **“All In”**

**Genesis 22:1-19**

**Key Word: Action**

#### **WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE**

But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”  
Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.  
James 2:18

## Gathering & Welcome:

### God Challenge Stories

During our time together over these past 4 weeks, what has been a standout moment for you?

### God Challenge Prayer

“God thank you for increasing our faith and helping us all to respond with YES to your challenges. Amen.”

## Warm-up Question:



- What is the craziest dare you ever took and why did you do it?

## Discussion:

**DARE:** A definition of dare is “to have enough courage or confidence to do something”

- How do you think our dares differ from God’s challenge to Abraham?
- How do you think Abraham got his confidence to trust God with such a big challenge?

**Trust** (when you cannot see a way).

- What is a hard thing God asked you to trust Him with? How did that turn(ing) out?
- Why is trusting when we are not given an answer so hard?

- What do you think of the statement “Waiting to see the answer before you take action has nothing to do with trust; that is control. Trust is taking action before you see the guarantee.”

**Obey** (even if it doesn’t make sense)

- Share about a time when God asked you to obey even when it didn’t make sense?

What have you found to undermine your ability to obey even if it doesn’t make sense?

What have you found to be helpful to your ability to obey even if it doesn’t make sense?

GOD IS NOT INTERESTED IN OUR SACRIFICE. HE IS INTERESTED IN WHAT THAT SACRIFICE DOES...

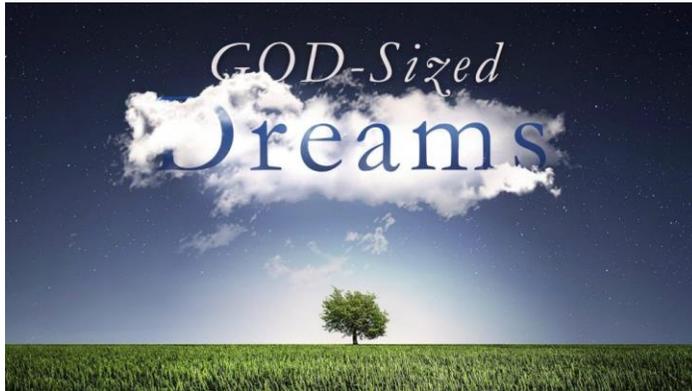
OUR SACRIFICE CONNECTS US TO HIS HEART AND RELEASES US TO THE FULLNESS OF HIS PROMISES AND OUR DESTINY.

**Action** (follow-through even during tough times)

- Abraham is known as a man of great faith! One thing we have learned is that he was on a journey of saying “yes” to his God-challenges. He BECAME a great man of faith because he continually took action. How do you think Abraham kept following-through even when he may have been tempted to stop short?
- Explain how you think action is connected to trusting.
- Sometimes a promise of God can seem to languish for a long time before it is suddenly fulfilled. But suddenly does not mean quickly. Using the lessons you have learned from Abraham, explain this truth in your own words.

**Prayer:**

## Going Deeper



In the book of Acts, Peter, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, declared we have entered the age when God's people would dream dreams and see visions. Heaven is waiting for the God-Dreamers.

Abraham was a person just like you and me. But he dared to believe God, to dream heaven-sized dreams with God.

It's been said that it is not what you have, but what you do with what you have that matters. Jesus was very clear on this issue...compassion and generosity matter to Him. And the early church so took that message to heart that they not only changed their local communities, but shaped the moral compass of western civilization. In today's consumer-driven-appetite for more, is it possible for a church to dare to do that again?

Clayton Community Church has no doubt displayed acts of compassion and generosity, and we have shown the city of Clayton that we care about them, but is even more possible? What would that look like? What would happen if this God vision captured the hearts of our entire congregation...to capture *your* heart? What would it look like for this dream to be fully funded?

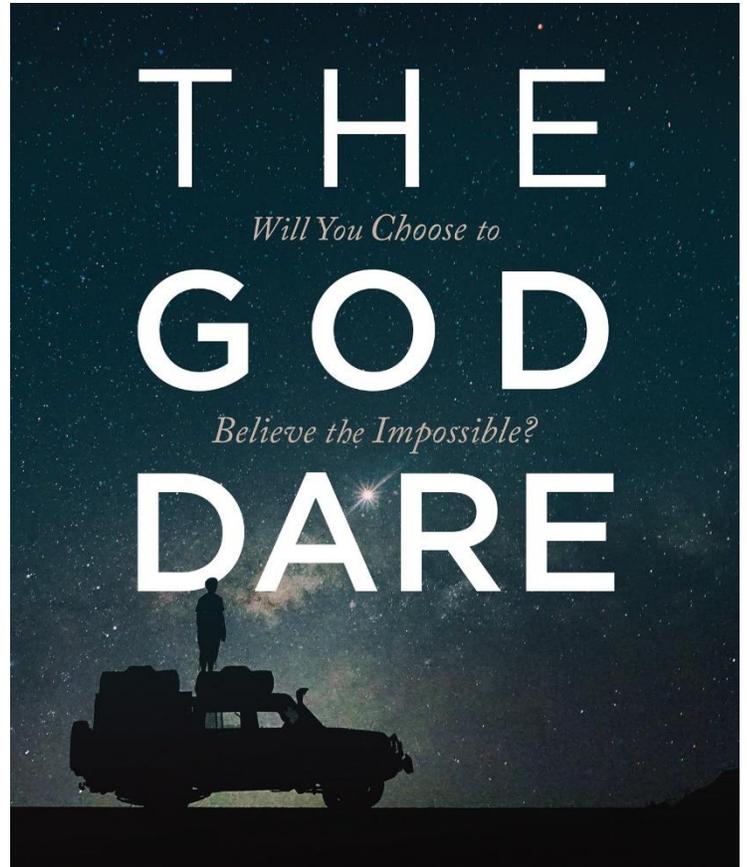
Would that inspire others to have their own God dreams? What if we began to really believe in the grandeur of our God? What if we dared to Imagine More? What does it look like when you Imagine More for your personal life, your children and grandchildren, for our church, your local community and beyond?

For our final "Going Deeper" we want you to ask God to awaken your vision to Imagine More. To help you, get a journal, or several pieces of paper, a pen and your Bible.

- Find a time and place where you can be alone with God for a bit of time. If you have some instrumental worship music put it on.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to direct your thoughts. Ask Him to awaken your heart to dream kingdom dreams.
- Take time to reflectively read I Corinthians 2:9 Read it in your Bible. Now read it in the Passion Translation: *Things never discovered or heard of before, things beyond our ability to imagine—these are the many things God has in store for all his lovers.*
- Write down your impressions and thoughts.

This book cover by Kate Battistelli captures my imagination. As you look at it, write down what is stirring in you. Don't be afraid of incomplete thoughts or ideas. Simply write down your feelings and impressions.

- Do you have any God-dreams? Write down the ones your thinking of right now.
- What might God be asking you to sacrifice in order to achieve your God-dreams?



Pastor Shawn asked us "Is there any thing you treasure or hold so tightly that you are unwilling to release it to the Gift-Giver? Write that down.

- I invite you to pray this prayer: "Jesus, I give to you my unwillingness to release to You and trust You with \_\_\_\_\_ and my fear of \_\_\_\_\_ because it undermines my ability to trust You. I ask you to set me free from (name everything you just wrote down). Jesus, please replace every fear with faith, right now. I agree with You when you said, 'Everyone whom the Son sets free is free indeed.' I am free. Thank you, Jesus. Amen"
- What is your next step of obedience in following more fully after God? In Imagining More?

End your time by thanking Jesus that the best in your journey is still ahead.

While we are working on a building, God will be at work building you and me. How we respond will determine not only our reflection of Jesus to our community, but the greatness of His work in us.