

A photograph of a lush garden with a small waterfall cascading over rocks. The scene is filled with green foliage, pink flowers, and a wooden walkway. The text is overlaid on this image.

Learning to
Walk & Live
by Faith

A study on the life of Abraham

by Pastor Andy Lee

Your Personal Journey of Faith

1. The *starting point* for your faith journey is in the Lord Jesus Christ. Who He is and what He has done for us. You can't bypass this route for your life!

- For God so loved the world that He gave his One and Only Son that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life. (Jn.3:16)
- If you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins. (Jn.8:24b)
- That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord', and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)
- If you have not trusted in him yet, do so right now and be rescued!

2. Our life of living by faith in Christ.

- I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, **I live by faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)
- We **live by faith** and not by sight. (2Cor.5:7)
- The righteous will **live by faith**. (Habakkuk 2:4)
- Now faith is being **sure** of what we hope for and **certain** of what we do not see. (Hebrews.11:1)

3. Why study Abraham's life?

- ***He is the spiritual father of us all***; we are his spiritual offspring who should walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had. (Romans 4:12,16-17)
- Consider Abraham: He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness. ***Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham.*** So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.(Galatians 3:6-7, 9)
- He is the most talked about in the Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11:8-19.
- For everything that was written in the past was written to **teach us**, so that through **endurance and the encouragement** of the Scriptures we might have **hope**. (Romans 15:4)

Background to his life

- The LORD had just confused the language of the whole world and scattered people over the face of the whole earth. (Gen.11:9)
- Abram came from the line of Shem, Noah's son. (Gen.11:10)
- Abram's dad was Terah, and his 2 brothers were Nahor and Haran. (Gen.11:27)
- His brother Haran, Lot's dad, had died in Ur of the Chaldeans. (11:28)
- Abram married Sarai, his cousin, Haran's daughter. (11:29)
- Sarai was barren and had no children. (11:30)
- The family moved from Ur and wanted to go to Canaan, but they settled in Haran. (11:31)
- There in Haran, Abram lost his dad, Terah. (11:32)

This was no doubt a great time of transition, not only for Abram's family, but for the whole world. God was moving people and scattering them into people groups because of the language barriers. Families had to uproot and start over some where else and settle in a place where they could call home.

Also we learned that Abram was accustomed to heart ache, losing his brother and his dad and also facing a life with no children to leave a legacy or inheritance too. Grief can overwhelm a person's life to the point that they just don't want to exist anymore. They often face the thought, "what is the point of living", or "I have nothing to live for".

Notice the family just "*settled*" in Haran. They didn't move on to Canaan, they just settled and just existed and lived and tried to make the most of things. When too much of life's transitions hit us all at once, we are all accustomed to just "settling" for a while and hope that things will change for the better or we can be afraid that we will be "stuck" here in this place. Abram found himself to be in a tuff and hopeless situation with no real plans for the future of his family. He needed guidance, encouragement, hope, comfort, and much more than that, *he needed God in his life* and that is exactly what happened.

Let's look at what God did to this man's heart and life as He changed him from **Abram**, meaning 'high father' to **Abraham**, meaning "father of a multitude".

Lesson #1 God Speaks & Appears to Abram

Genesis 12:1-9

Group discussion questions:

1. What did the LORD = Yahweh, ask Abram to leave? (12:1)
2. Would it be hard for you to pack up right now and leave all that he left behind? If so, why?
3. Where did God tell him to go? (read Heb.12:8, 10, 13-16)
4. What did God promise that He would do for Abram? (2-3)
5. If you were Abram, how would you respond to these promises from God that He would make you a blessing to the whole earth when the whole world was in such chaos?
6. How did Abram respond? (4)
7. Who went with him? (4b-5)
*(Does our obedience affect the lives of others?)
8. Why do you think Abram traveled throughout the land of Canaan? (6)
9. Who already lived in and occupied this territory? (6)
10. What did the LORD say to Abram concerning this land? (7)
11. How did Abram respond this time to His appearing to him? (7b-8)

Accountability time:

1. What has God been speaking to you about lately that you need to obey?
What adjustments do I need to make so that I can obey him?
2. Do you really think that God wants to use you to change the lives of others?
If not, what is holding you back?
3. What drives you to worship God and call on his name? (His voice, His promises, His presence, our trials, our troubles)

Lesson #2

Moving Past Your Mistakes

Genesis 12:10- 13:4

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Did God tell Abram to go to Egypt because of the severe famine?
2. Could God have taken care of him despite his circumstances? (Matt.6:33)
3. Did Abram obey Proverbs 3:5-6? Why not?
4. How did Abram's plan backfire on him?
5. Do you think he put his wife in jeopardy for selfish reasons? Explain.
6. Did Abram leave behind a good testimony for the Pharaoh?
7. Do you think the Pharaoh felt betrayed by Abram?
8. Egypt is a picture of the **"world"** in the Bible, when Abram left Egypt, what did he acquire? (13:1-2) Does it seem like God blessed his mess?
9. Why do you think Abram "went from place to place" after he made some huge mistakes in Egypt? (13:3)
10. Compare 12:8 with 13:3-4. What was the difference in his calling upon God now than before?

***Key point:** We will wander from place to place "until" we go back and make things right with God. Until we acknowledge our mistakes as sin and turning away from God, we won't be able to move on to where God wants us to go.

Accountability time:

1. Share a time when you made a mistake and how you got past it with the Lord's help.
2. Are you at this time trusting God or are you just wandering from your past mistakes?
3. Read together: Philippians 3:13-14; Hebrews 12:1-2, Proverbs 16:3, 5, 9, 18, 20.

Lesson #3

Family Feud

Genesis 13:5-18

Discussion Questions:

1. What was the issue that Lot and Abram had? (5-7)
2. What reasoning did Abram use to respond to the quarreling? (8-9a)
3. Why is being unselfish so important when there is conflict? (9b)
4. Why is there quarreling in the first place? (James 4:1-2)
5. What kind of lot did Lot choose for his family? (10-13)
6. Did the place where he lived have an impact on his life? (2Pet.2:7-8)
7. Since Abram was unselfish, what did God reveal to him about his land? (14-17)
8. Why do you think he built an altar this time in this new place? (18)
9. Is it important to make your home a place of worship? Why?

Accountability time:

1. How do you normally respond when you face conflicts or fights?
2. What has been the motive for your conflicts?
3. Do you think Abram won or lost in the end?
4. Do you need to resolve any conflicts right now?
5. Read Philippians 2:3-5 together and pray that we would be such a people.

Lesson #4 Fighting For Family

Genesis 14

Discussion Questions:

1. What happened to Lot since he lived in Sodom? (11-12)
2. How would you respond if you were in Abram's shoes about Lot? (13)
3. What did Abram set out to do for his nephew and his family? (14-15)
4. How would you parallel this battle for Lot's rescue with evangelizing the lost?
5. Is there ever a time for physical battle? Explain your decision.
6. How did Abram respond to these 2 different kings and why? (17-24)
7. How is Melchizedek here a picture of Christ's priesthood? (Heb.7)
8. Who did Abram give credit to for the victory? (22) Why is that important in our walk of faith?
9. Should a walk of faith be described as a walk of righteousness and justice as well? (23-24)

*Fighting for God's glory, the soul's of men, and for fairness and equity is a true hallmark of a person who walks by faith. Trials and battles many times reveal the true character we have within us and show us what we are truly made of.

Accountability time:

1. Who needs rescuing in your family? Do all you can to rescue them and leave the results with God!
2. How is your giving to Christ? How is giving an act of faith?
3. Would you describe yourself as passive or an activist when the heat is on?
4. Abram had trained men who fought with him, who has your back?

Lesson #5 God's Promise & Covenant with Abram

Genesis 15

Discussion Questions:

1. How did God reveal himself to Abram at this specific time? (15:1) Why? (14:23)
2. What did Abram really want and why? (2-3)
3. What did God promise to Abram about the future? (4-5)
4. How did Abram respond? (6)
5. Why does Paul and James use this verse to prove the doctrine of justification by faith alone and how does it apply to us now as Believers in Christ Jesus? (Rom. 4, Gal. 3, James 2:23)
6. What do you find intriguing about this covenant that God made to Abram? (7-21)
7. Did verses (13-16) ever come true? If so, when and what importance does that have?
8. Did Abram ever see its fulfillment on the land? (Heb.11:8-16)
9. Why is understanding the 'Sovereignty of God' so important when it comes to living by faith? (7-8)

***Unconditional Covenant** = where the terms of agreement between two parties are held solely upon the one who is making the agreement. In this case, God made the agreement and so He is totally responsible to make it happen. (Heb.6:13-20)

Accountability time:

1. Have you personally trusted in Christ as your Savior? If not, why not & why not now?
2. Have you ever felt like God was holding something back from you? What was it?
3. Have you ever felt that He gave you something that you didn't deserve?
4. When was the last time God answered a prayer of yours?

Lesson #6

Taking A Shortcut

Genesis 16

Discussion Questions:

1. How long has Abram been in Canaan and what were the circumstances? (16:1-3)
2. Why did Sarai bypass God's plan for a son and how did she do it? (1-4)
3. Do you think she ever regretted her decision later on? (4-6)
4. What should Abram have done differently? (2b)
5. Who did Sarai blame for her situation and circumstances she was in? (2, 5)
6. Would you have done what Hagar did done by running away? (6b-8)
7. Would you have done what the angel of the Lord asked her to do in (9)?
8. How can the angel know the future of her child Ishmael? (11-12)
9. What did Hagar call the angel who visited her and why? (13-14)
10. Did the message of the angel come to pass as he said it would? (15-16) (Matt.1:18-25)

Accountability time:

1. Have you ever regretted decisions that you made where you know you didn't trust God?
2. Have you ever blamed others for the things you know you had caused?
3. Is there some command that God has told you to do that you think is too hard to do?
4. Do you ever think at times that God doesn't care or hear your troubles? Why is that?

Lesson #7 Years Later

Genesis 17

Discussion Questions:

1. 23 years later (from ch.15), what does God reveal to Abram as he gets older? (1-2)
2. Does age have anything to do with our usefulness for God?
3. How did Abram respond now after years of waiting? (3a)
4. What does God say now to Abram about his future and his descendants? (3-8)
5. How long is this covenant binding for the nation of Israel? Or is he referring to the land of the 'New Jerusalem'?
6. What was the conditions upon this covenant was made and to be kept? (9-14)
7. What did God reveal to Abram about Sarai? (15-16, 19, 21)
8. How did Abram respond to these promises? (17-18)
9. What does the name Isaac mean? Is that ironic on how Abraham responded?
10. Did Abraham obey this covenant conditions even though painful? Lol. (23-27)

Accountability time:

1. Is your walk blameless with God right now? If not, why not?
2. Do you ever hear God talk with you as you pray? (3, 9, 15, 17, 19, 22)
3. Have you ever chuckled at what God could do with your life and family?
4. When was the last time you led your whole household to obey God, even if it was just you and your kids on the same day?

Lesson #8

Laughing At Dinner

Genesis 18:1-15

Discussion Questions:

1. How can the LORD appear to Abraham and then him see 3 men nearby?
2. Are you able to sense and recognize God's presence? If so, how?
3. What was Abrahams' request to God? (3-5)
4. What would you prepare for the Lord to eat? (6-8) Would you prepare your best food? Why?
5. What did the Lord remind Abraham during dinner? (17:21; 18:10)
6. How did Sarah respond to the Lord's words of promise? (10b-12)
7. Why do you think the Lord cared about how Sarah responded? (13-14) Is unbelief such a serious sin? (Matt.13:53-58) Why?
8. Do you think that anything is too hard for God to do? Be honest.
9. Why did Sarah lie to the Lord? (15a) Have you ever done the same?
10. Does God know when we lie? (15b) Does He confront us on it?

Accountability time:

1. Do you think that God would ever stop and visit you to encourage you? If not, why not?
2. Could God be refreshed by what you are offering Him lately? (your best vs. left overs)
3. Is there some area of unbelief that makes God small in your eyes?
4. What has God been confronting you on lately and how have you dealt with it?

Lesson #9 Praying For Sin City

Genesis 18:16-33

Discussion Questions:

1. Is walking with God going to be a true reality or is it some fantasy? (16)
2. Why did the Lord not want to hide vital information from him? (17-18)
3. How does God describe Abraham and what kind of man he was? (19)
4. What was the Lord about to do? (20-21)
5. Remember, who lived in Sodom? (19:1)
6. Why did Abraham ask this tough question to God? (22-23) and what was his reasoning behind it? (24-25)
7. Why do you think Abraham lowered the bargaining number from 50 to 10?
8. Why do you think that God listened to Abraham's plea for them? (32-33)
9. Can prayer really change things, even a city being spared from destruction?
10. In prayer, who gets the last word in? (33) Does that change the way you should pray?

Accountability time:

1. What area of character do you need to grow in from verse (19)?
2. How is this lesson going to change the way you pray? To God and for others?
3. How is your walk with God going? Great Good Complacent
Describe why and how it can be better?

Lesson #10 Hurry and Get Out of Here!

Genesis 19

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was there only 2 angels? (1) Why did they come to Sodom? (13)
2. How was Lot's greeting to these angels similar to Abraham's greeting? (1b-3, 18:2-8)
3. Why did the men of the city come to Lot's house that night? (4-5)
4. What did Lot warn them about? (6-7) (2Peter2:6-9) (Romans 1:24-27)
5. How did Lot compromise himself and his family? (8-9) What would you have done?
6. How did the angels rescue him and his family? (10-11)
7. How did Lot's sons in law respond to his message? (14)
8. What is the message of the angels? (15-17) (Rev.14:6-12)
9. Why did the Lord spare their lives? (16, 19) Has he spared yours?
10. What happened to Lot's wife? (26) (Luke 17:26-33) Why is it a warning to us?
11. Did Abraham's pleading help rescue Lot's life? (29)
12. Why do you think Lot was so afraid? (30)
13. Do you think Sodom had any influence on the girls' life? (31-36)

Accountability time:

1. Does compromising your faith really have catastrophic results? If so, why?
2. What areas do you feel like you have or are compromising in?
3. What do you think Lot would have done differently? Why?

Lesson #11 Blended Family Tension

Genesis 21:1-21

Discussion Questions:

1. Did God's promise come true just as He said it would? (1-3)
2. Isaac means = he laughs. Why do you think God gave him that name? (6-7)
3. What was the cause of the tension between Sarah and Hagar? (8-9)
4. What was Sarah's advice on this matter? (10) Did she have a valid reason?
5. How did Abraham respond to her advice and why? (11)
6. How did God comfort Abraham in this situation? (12-13)
7. Do you think it was tough on Abraham to obey God the next day? (14) Why?
8. How did God comfort Hagar and how did He provide for her? (15-19)
9. Who helped the boy grow up? (20) Parents, why is that comforting?

Accountability time:

1. Has God ever spoken to you through your wife? Did you listen?
2. Does God care about blended families and their distresses? If so, why?
3. Can you trust God to raise your kids with out you? Do you think He is qualified?
(He is a father to the fatherless) *he parents you as well.
4. In times of tension, do you run or do you continue to do what is right no matter how hard?

Lesson #12 God's Testing of Abraham

Genesis 22:1-19

Discussion Questions:

1. How should you respond when God wants to talk to you? (1)
2. Why did God test Abraham with his only son? (2, 12) (Consider Luke 14:26)
3. How does this testing foreshadow Christ's sacrifice from the Father? (Jn. 3:16, Rom. 8:32)
4. What did Abraham know about that gave him confidence in this sacrifice? (5,8) (Heb. 11:17-19)
5. Abraham had Isaac carry the wood and he took the fire and knife. (6) How does Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-11 relate to the imagery between the Father and the Son.
6. Did God come through with providing a substitute for Isaac? (13) What does this substitutionary sacrifice mean for us? (1 Peter 2:24-25)
7. What did Abraham call that place and why? (14) What would you call Golgotha?
8. What was God really interested in with this testing? (15-16, 18)
9. What did the angel of the Lord promise to Abraham? (17-18) Consider earlier: (15:4-5)
10. Why do you think James includes this act of Abraham to his audience? (Jam. 2:14-23)

Accountability time:

1. Do you think that you could have obeyed God on this test with your kid(s)?
2. Have you withheld your kids from giving them over to Him? If not, why not?
3. Write some of your favorite names that you call God? I.e; (the Lord my Provider)

Lesson #13 Losing Mom

Genesis 23-25

Discussion Questions:

1. How old was Sarah when she died? (2)
2. How did Abraham grieve over his wife? (3-4) Why is mourning so important?
3. Why did Abraham want to bury his wife and give her a proper burial? (4)
4. How did the pagan people describe Abraham? (6a)
5. Why is it important to be a person of influence wherever God takes you? (6b-15)
6. What did Abraham refuse to do even though Ephron said he would give him the land? (16)
Why is integrity so important, even in business transactions?
7. Abraham's request came through and the land was deeded to him and so he could bury his wife.
Why did Abraham want this spot so badly? (25:7-10)
8. How did Isaac feel after he married a godly woman? (24:67) Do you think he missed his mom?
9. Why do you think Abraham waited to marry again after Isaac was married first? (25:1)
10. Abraham, even though very old, still had 6 more kids from Keturah. But who did he leave everything to and why didn't he leave out his new kids? (25:5-6)
11. Where did Abraham go after he died? (25:8b) Where will we go as believers? (Jn.14:1-3)
12. Who helped bury Abraham at the cave he purchased/ (25:9) Why do you think Ishmael came and not Hagar?

Accountability time:

1. What can you do now that will make sure your life will end with leaving a legacy of love and faith behind?