



LESSON 7

Believing in God

OPEN IT

1. When have you had to totally trust someone else with something? Did they follow through?

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Day 1

TODAY'S THEME: EXPLORE IT

Read Genesis 25:1-18; Hebrews 11:8-13

2. How did Abraham treat Isaac differently from all his other sons?
3. What ends up happening to Abraham in this passage?
4. What does this passage teach us about God?
5. How would you characterize Abraham's life? How would you describe him to someone?

Day 2

WHY ALL THE FAMILY TREES?

Genesis 25:2-6, 12-18

"She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian ..." Lots of times we get to these genealogies and find all these ridiculous names we can't even pronounce, and what do we normally do? Skim to the end of the list and keep moving. I mean, what's so important about all these names anyway? It's not like they tell us anything. WRONG!

I get it, it's hard to read some of those names, but they actually are really important. For example, all the names in this passage of Genesis are significant in wrapping up the story of Abraham! They tell us that Abraham had lots of kids who had lots of kids. You know what that means? God is continuing to fulfill His promise to Abraham from back in Genesis 17:4, where He tells Abraham that his name is now changed from Abram to Abraham because he is going to be the father of many nations! So while the names might all seem tedious and unnecessary to us, they are written down so that we might know that God was faithful to Abraham and He kept His promises.

The rest of the genealogies in the Bible help teach us kind of the same thing because ultimately, they all end up leading down to one person—JESUS! And it's through Jesus that God again continues to keep His blessings to Abraham by blessing all the nations of the earth by offering salvation to everyone! So I guess next time you read a genealogy in the Bible, stop and thank God that He is so faithful.

6. What do you know about your great-grandparents? How about your great-great-grandparents? How have their lives shaped your life today?

7. What are different ways we tell others about God's faithfulness today?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here are some things you could pray for today:

Thank you, God, that You pay attention to all the details. You are faithful to Your word. Thank You for being faithful to Your promise to Abraham—that even today You are carrying out Your promise to Him. Thank You for blessing me and my family through Jesus. Amen.

Day 4

WHY SHOULD I PUT MY FAITH IN JESUS?

Read Hebrews 12:2

Let me give you three reasons from Hebrews 12:2 why you should place your trust in Jesus:

Jesus authors your faith. Believe it or not, we do not come up with faith on our own. Our faith is given to us by God and for God's glory. That means we can't just conjure up enough faith to trust in God. That means that the faith we have comes from Him in the first place. So wouldn't it make sense to take the faith that He has given to us and place it back in Him?

Jesus suffered for your forgiveness. Jesus didn't just say, "Hey man, trust me." He suffered greatly on your behalf so that you could trust Him. God won't just ignore your sins because He is a just God. Your sins had to be dealt with. So there are some options. Option 1 is that He let you pay the penalty for your own sins which will take you an eternity, literally. It will involve great suffering and complete separation from God. Or Option 2 is God could pay the penalty for you that you can receive through faith. That means that Jesus came and suffered and bore the full wrath of God on your behalf, if only you'll receive His suffering through faith. He has proven His love for you by how greatly He suffered to make forgiveness available to you.

Jesus triumphed for your future. But Jesus didn't only suffer, he triumphed as well. He was beaten, mocked, and crucified for you. But after three days in the grave, Jesus rose from the dead, defeating death itself. He did this to give you victory as well. When we receive salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, we receive forgiveness of sins through His sacrifice and we receive victory through His resurrection. He now sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven, waiting for us to come join Him someday in Paradise!

10. How do you determine if something is trustworthy? How can you determine if Jesus is trustworthy?

11. If someone gave up their life to save you (maybe jumped in front of a car, ran into a burning building, gave up their heart, or anything like that), how would it change the way you lived moving forward?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

Thank You for Jesus' sacrifice on my behalf, that He would suffer in my place. Amen.

Day 5

HOW DOES FAITH GIVE HOPE?

Read Hebrews 11:8-13

Abraham, like everyone else mentioned in Hebrews 11, *“died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.”* They were waiting for the promised Messiah to come that God had promised long ago. Their faith gave them hope in something greater that was yet to come. Hebrews 11 is filled with snippets of people’s lives who lived by faith because they were hoping in this promise. Hebrews 11:1 says that *“faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”* What that means is that faith is being certain about these things. For Abraham, his faith meant that he was certain that God would fulfill His promise to make him into many nations and that He would bless all the nations of the earth through him even though he would never see those things happen. Faith changes the way we live now because we are certain of something better to come later.

12. What do we have faith in today as God’s people?

13. What can make it difficult to have faith sometimes? How can our faith grow when it is weak?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

“Lord, I believe! Help my unbelief.”¹

¹ Mark 9:24