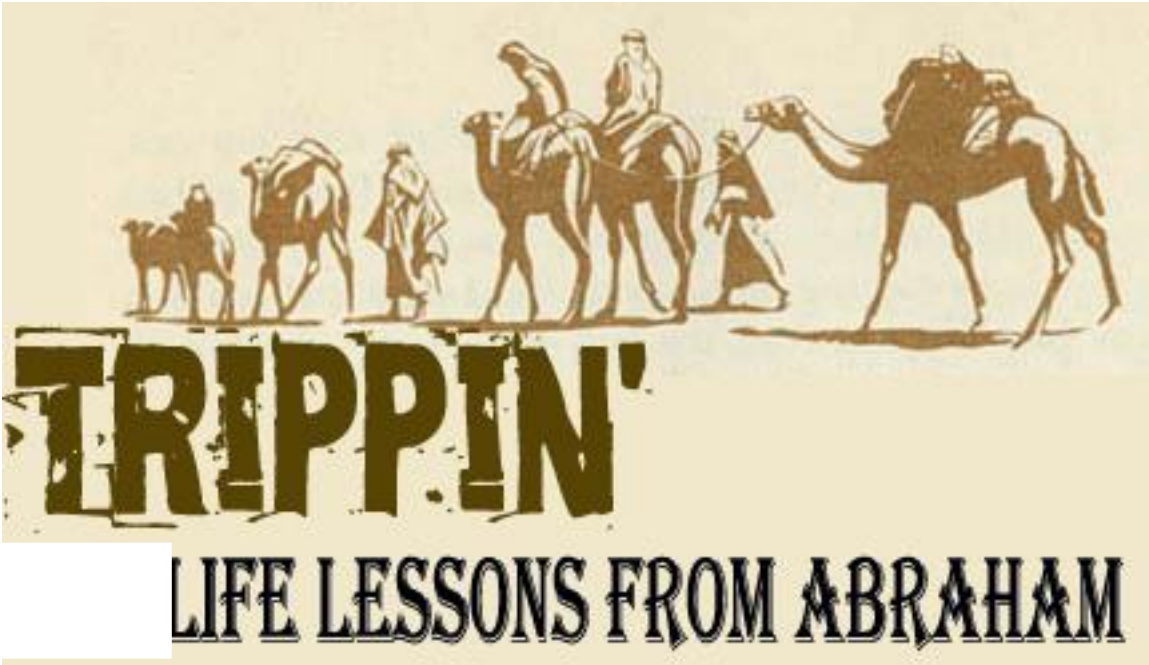


Trippin'

Life Lesson's From Abraham



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

By Louie Marsh

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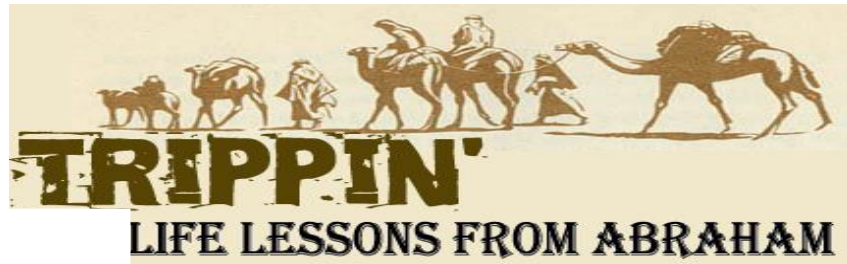
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INTRODUCTION TO Trippin'

Outline of each session

You are about to embark on a life-changing experience in your small group. Studying God's Word together with other believers always impacts our lives in ways we can't imagine.

As your group studies the Bible together, this study guide will help you strengthen and deepen the ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life. The format of each session is as follows:

CONNECT – The foundation for spiritual growth is an intimate connection with God and His family. The questions in this section will help you get to know the members of your group so you'll begin to feel a sense of belonging and family.

GROW – This exciting section introduces a new component for many of you: video teaching. Each week you will watch Louie's teaching video for the session. We ask you to follow along using the teaching outline in your study guide along with your Bibles. After the teaching video, discuss the questions that follow. The questions are designed to bring you to a deeper understanding of the Bible and to help you consider how the truths of the Bible can impact your life.

PRAY – A time to briefly share prayer requests and then pray about them as a group. If you've never prayed publicly before don't worry – no one will *force* you to pray, but we encourage to take a step of faith and try it – you will like it!

Who Is This Guy?



Hi, I'm Louie Marsh, the guy who gets all the blame for this series since I'm the one who put it together!

I spent over 35 years as a Pastor of several different churches in Arizona and Colorado. And now I am traveling and teaching Jesus all over the world. How'd I get here?

In February 2002 I took my first trip out of the country with three people from the church I was pastoring to Myanmar. We went with two missionaries we supported, Bob and Peggy Kuest, who were pioneering the Traveling Teacher Ministry. It was a life changing trip for me. I went from not ever wanting to go overseas again, to making nine trips in ten years! God opened the doors for me to travel not only on Mission Trips, but also with other groups.

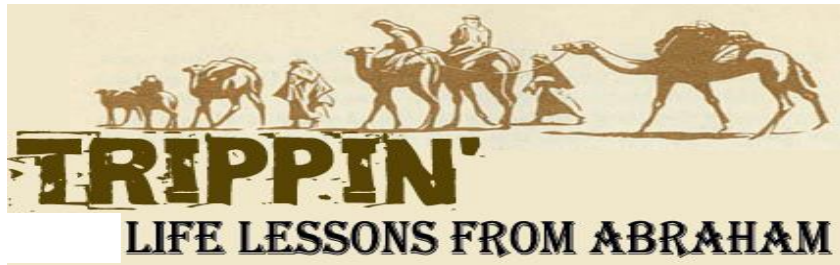


I'm currently and for the second time, Pastor of CCR; Christ's Church on the River, in Parker AZ. This booklet is offered free to anyone and everyone who'd like to use it. All I ask is that you don't modify it without my permission.

I like to describe my ministry in two words: **EMPOWERING DISCIPLES**. It's only through Christ's power that we can refuse to be conformed to the world and instead become like Jesus.

Thanks, God bless, and I hope and pray you are blessed by this study!

- Louie



LIFE LESSONS FROM ABRAHAM

LESSON 1 – God Calling!

CONNECT 15 Minutes



If your group is new or you have any new members, take a few minutes to introduce yourselves. Briefly share how you heard about the church.

Do you know of someone outside the Bible, who was called to do something a lot of people thought was crazy? Briefly share the story with the group.

Has God ever called you to do something you weren't prepared to do? How did you respond to this call?

GROW 45 Minutes



Key Verses:

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 (ESV)

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Watch the video now. Follow along in your Bibles and take notes on the provided outline.

TRIPPIN', LESSON #1

1) God calls people to serve Him who are _____

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 1 Corinthians 1:20, 25-28 (ESV)

Abram Facts:

- Not _____
- Not _____
- Nothing _____

2) God calls me just when I _____

Now the Lord said to Abram, Genesis 12:1a

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. Mark 1:16-18 (ESV)

3) God doesn't tell me _____

*Now the Lord said to Abram, "**Go** from your country and your kindred and your father's house **to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you** and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Genesis 12:1-3 (ESV)*

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. Hebrews 11:8 (ESV)

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...Matthew 28:19a (ESV)

4) God expects me to...

- _____ for God's call

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.' Revelation 2:29 (ESV)

- _____ for God's call

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, John 5:39 (ESV)

- _____ **God's call**

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? James 2:14-16 (ESV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Now's the time to talk about what you just heard. Feel free to ask any questions you have, but always be respectful and listen to others.

- 1) Do you think we sometimes put the people in the Bible on a pedestal? Is this good or bad, and why?**
- 2) How do you feel being compared to Abraham? Do you think he pretty much like you are? Or was he special? Or are you a loser?**
- 3) In the Bible it seems that the Lord often calls people when they least expect it. Why do you think He does this? Has He ever done it to you?**
- 4) Louie said that God doesn't tell us everything at once. Do you agree or disagree with that? Do you wish He would tell us all?**
 - **Why doesn't God tell us what's going to happen in the future?**
- 5) What can I do, practically speaking, to Listen, Look and Obey God's call?**
- 6) During the closing prayer time, pray that each one of you will hear & answer God's call on your life.**

PRAY





LESSON 2 – Letting Go

CONNECT 15 Minutes



What do you own that you would have a hard time letting go of if God told you too?

If we only obey God partially, are we obeying Him at all?

GROW 45 Minutes



Key Verse

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. Genesis 12:1 (NIV)

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TRIPPIN', LESSON #2

1) God Call Abram to leave it _____

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. Genesis 12:1 (NIV)

- He only obeyed _____

So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. Genesis 12:4-5 (NIV)

So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. Genesis 13:1 (NIV)

- He paid a _____

Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, toward Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: Genesis 13:10-11 (NIV)

2) God is calling me to let of ...

- _____

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)

- _____

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? Mark 8:34-37 (ESV)

- _____

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go...Genesis 12:1 (NIV)

For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

Matthew 10:35-38 (ESV)

**One does not discover new lands without consenting to lose sight of the shore. --
Andre Gide**

“Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves. When our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little. When we arrive safely because we have sailed too close to the shore. Disturb us, Lord.”
- Sir Francis Drake

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Now's the time to talk about what you just heard. Feel free to ask any questions you have, but always be respectful and listen to others.

- 1) Does God's call to Abraham (Abram at this point) seem unreasonable to you?**

- 2) Abraham only obeyed partially, yet we never see God rebuke him for that. Why do you think that is?**

- 3) Louie said Abraham paid a price for partial obedience. Have you ever experienced that? Was the price you paid painful?**

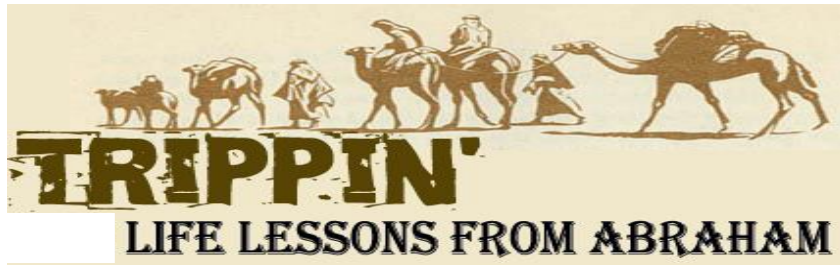
- 4) What specific sins are hardest for you to let go of?**

- 5) In a practical sense, what does it mean to deny myself? How would my life be different if I did deny myself completely?**

- 6) How do you feel about the two closing quotes above? Are you ready to cast off your support and head out into the deep?**



PRAY



LESSON 3 – Always Acknowledging God

CONNECT 15 Minutes



How easy is it to “forget God” in your daily life? Do you often find yourself trying to deal with everything in your own power?

How willing are you to take a big risk? Do you enjoy it, or are you risk adverse?

GROW 45 Minutes



Key Verse

When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan. During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. Genesis 14:14-15 (NIV)

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TRIPPIN', LESSON #3

Acknowledging God Means...

1) Taking _____ to help my friends.

*They also took Lot, the son of Abram’s brother, who was dwelling in Sodom... Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, who was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and of Aner. These were allies of Abram. When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, **he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of***

them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them... Then he brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions... Genesis 14:12-16 (ESV)

- Abram was _____
- But he was wise and _____

2) _____ the real God.

After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. Genesis 14:17-20 (ESV)

- Abram put God _____
- Melchizedek's blessing means –

3) _____ the world's seduction.

And the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself." But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "**I have lifted my hand to the Lord, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.'**" Genesis 14:21-23 (ESV)

- Abram identifies who's _____
- He avoided _____

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15-17 (ESV)

4) Helping those who _____

I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me. Let **Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share.**" Genesis 14:24 (ESV)

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. 1 John 3:16-18 (ESV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Now's the time to talk about what you just heard. Feel free to ask any questions you have, but always be respectful and listen to others.

- 1) Apparently Abraham didn't hesitate to risk it all to rescue his nephew Lot. If you were in that position, would have stopped and thought about it first? Why, why not?**

- 2) Abraham was outnumbered in this battle, as happened almost every time in the Bible. If you are feeling outnumbered in your life, what does this story of his victory say to you? Do you find it helpful?**

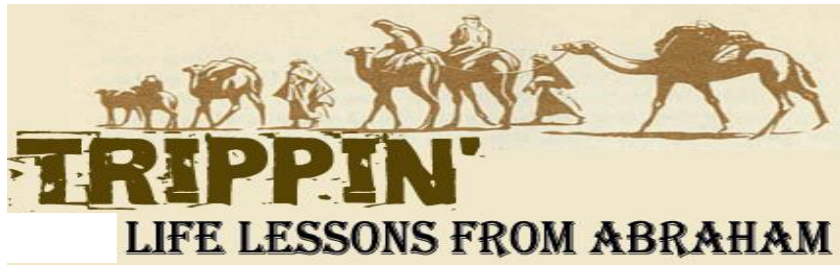
- 3) Abraham worshipped the one true God. We don't see that many physical idols in America today. What false gods do we around us? How often do we fall into worshipping them? WHY do we worship them?**

- 4) How does our culture seek to seduce us today? Are you tempted by them? Are they hard for you to see?**

- 5) How do you treat people who could be thought of as "beneath you?" Are you kind and generous to those who can't do anything for you? Why is this important? Does it highlight how God treats us?**



PRAY



LESSON 4 – Doing What Real Faith Does

CONNECT 15 Minutes



What is the opposite of faith – doubt or unbelief?

Can questions about God or what He's doing come out of your faith, or do questions only come from a lack of faith?

GROW 45 Minutes



Key Verse

But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" Genesis 15:2 (ESV)

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TRIPPIN', LESSON #4

Real Faith...

1) _____ of God.

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." Genesis 15:1-3 (ESV)

- This is _____

2) _____ God's answers.

And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness. Genesis 15:4-6 (ESV)

- This is: _____

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "**The righteous shall live by faith.**"* Romans 1:16-17 (ESV)

- It means: My relationship with God is based on _____

3) _____ for reasons to believe and follow Jesus.

And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" Genesis 15:7-8 (ESV)

4) _____ to God's Covenant.

He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half.

And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him.

*Then the Lord said to Abram, "**Know for certain** that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.*

But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

As for yourself, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age.

And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.

On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this

land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates... Genesis 15:9-21 (ESV)

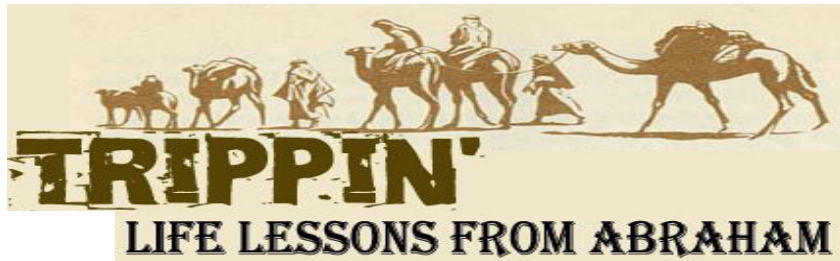
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Now's the time to talk about what you just heard. Feel free to ask any questions you have, but always be respectful and listen to others.

- 1) Louie says that doubt is NOT the opposite of faith. Agree or disagree and why?
- 2) Abraham questioned God, believed His promise, and was justified by faith! What does that say to you about the role questioning can play in your spiritual life?
- 3) Can you define justification by faith in one simple sentence? Do it!
- 4) What's so important about justification by faith anyway?
- 5) What does the word covenant mean in the Bible?
- 6) What's so important about having a covenant with God? What practical difference in your life does having a covenant with God make?
- 7) Jesus is committed to you through His covenant. How committed are you to HIM??



PRAY



LESSON 5 – My Way or God’s Way?

CONNECT 15 Minutes



Who do you want to please more than anyone else,, or who’s approval do you seek above all others?

Why is it so hard for us to “wait on the Lord?” Do you think people are impatient or just naturally short sighted?

GROW 45 Minutes



Key Verse

And Sarai said to Abram, “Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. Genesis 16:2 (ESV)

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TRIPPIN’, LESSON # 5

To Choose God’s Way I Need to...

1) _____ about what God wants.

On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, Genesis 15:18 (ESV)

2) _____ who’s really on 1st.

God – “You will have offspring.”

Sarai - *And Sarai said to Abram, “Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. Genesis 16:2 (ESV)*

3) _____ what’s really tempting me.

Do I want to

- _____

Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife. Proverbs 21:9 (NIV)

- _____

For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world. 1 John 2:16 (NIV)

- _____

4) Take the _____

And Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!” But Abram said to Sarai, “Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please.” Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her. The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And he said, “Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?” She said, “I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai.” The angel of the Lord said to her, “Return to your mistress and submit to her.” The angel of the Lord also said to her, “I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude.” Genesis 16:5-10 (ESV)

- **Short Term Fixes are** _____

- **Consider how this will impact** _____

5) _____ to following Jesus above and beyond all else!

But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead." Matthew 8:22 (NIV)

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.
For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.
Matthew 16:24-25 (NIV)*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Now's the time to talk about what you just heard. Feel free to ask any questions you have, but always be respectful and listen to others.

- 1) How did Sari's cultural view of childbearing impact her decision to try and "help God?"**

- 2) In what way does our cultural view of life affect our understanding of and obedience to God?**

- 3) Louie mentioned 3 specific drives that tempt us – People Pleasing, Sexual or Ego issues, and cultural imperatives. Of these three, which one is the biggest problem for you personally to overcome?**
 - Which is the biggest problem for most American Christians to overcome?**

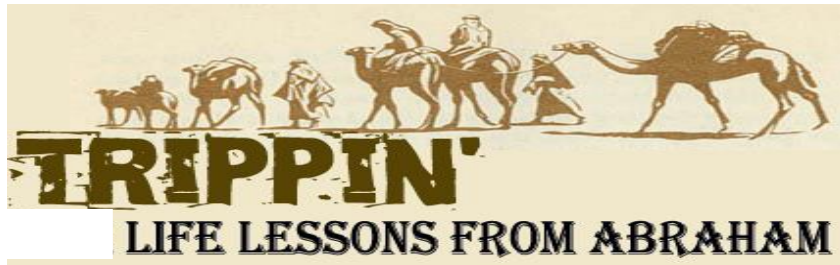
- 4) Louie said that short term fixes are rarely of God. Agree or disagree and why?**

- 5) How often do you think about how your actions will effect your children or grandchildren? If you are childless, how does this apply to you?**

- 6) Jesus said "let the dead bury their own dead." What does that statement tell you about the high cost of discipleship? How costly is it for you to follow Jesus?**



PRAY



LESSON 6 – Real Prayer

CONNECT 15 Minutes



Which do people do more – talk about prayer or pray? Ask for prayer or pray for others?

What can you do to keep your mind focused on what you are praying about? Does God get mad when my mind drifts away for a moment?

GROW 45 Minutes



Key Verse

Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Genesis 18:23 (ESV)

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TRIPPIN', LESSON # 6

Real Prayer is...

1) From the _____

The Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? Genesis 18:17-18 (ESV)

2) Relies on two critical things:

- God's _____

Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. John 16:24 (ESV)

- God's _____

Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ...Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" Genesis 18:23, 25 (ESV)

3) _____

Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Genesis 18:24 (ESV) **[40,30, 20,10!]**

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. 1 John 5:14-15 (ESV)

4) _____

Abraham answered and said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes...Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak...Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it." Genesis 18:27, 30, 32 (ESV)

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)

5) _____

yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.' " And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?" Luke 18:5-7 (ESV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Now's the time to talk about what you just heard. Feel free to ask any questions you have, but always be respectful and listen to others.

1) Louie said real prayer is from the heart. What does that mean to you?

- Do you feel comfortable in pouring out your heart to God, even when that might mean you question Him? Is that proper prayer?

2) How does our covenant with God impact our prayer life? What practical difference does it make?

3) Name some of the character traits of God as taught in the Bible, and then explore how those might change how you pray, or encourage you to pray.

4) Why is it so important to be specific when you pray? Why not just give one big old blanket prayer to cover everything and then quit? Think of how much time you'd save!!

5) How can we show the proper respect to God when we pray? Is there a conflict or a tension between praying from the heart and being respectful? If there is, which one should you go with?

6) Since Jesus clearly taught that we ought to continue to pray for things, where did this idea that you pray in faith once and not pray again ever come from anyway?



PRAY



LESSON 7 – You Can't Go Home Again

CONNECT 15 Minutes



Why is it so hard to let go of certain things? Why do some habits or possessions have such a hold on us?

Is it always wrong to want to go back to where we started from?

GROW 45 Minutes



Key Verse

Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. Genesis 13:12 (ESV)

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TRIPPIN', LESSON # 7

Life Lesson's From Lot:

Lot was righteous _____

He started as a city dweller, _____ after leaving Abraham.

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 Haran, they settled there. Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Haran. Genesis 11:31-32 (NIV)

He took _____ – something God rarely calls us to do!

So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are brothers. Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, toward Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company:

Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. Now the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD. Genesis 13:8-13 (NIV)

Results:

- **He had to be _____**

The four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food; then they went away. They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom. One who had escaped came and reported this to Abram the Hebrew. Now Abram was living near the great trees of Mamre the Amorite, a brother of Eshcol and Aner, all of whom were allied with Abram.

When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan. During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus.

He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people. Genesis 14:11-16 (NIV)

- **He lived _____ dreadful sin**
- **Was never _____**

"Get out of our way," they replied. And they said, "This fellow came here as an alien, and now he wants to play the judge! We'll treat you worse than them." They kept bringing pressure on Lot and moved forward to break down the door. Genesis 19:9 (NIV)

- **He lost his _____**

So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry his daughters. He said, "Hurry and get out of this place, because the LORD is about to destroy the city!" But his sons-in-law thought he was joking. Genesis 19:14 (NIV)

- **Almost lost _____ because he didn't want to leave**

With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished." When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them. As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, "Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!" Genesis 19:15-17 (NIV)

- **He lost _____**

Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities--and also the vegetation in the land. But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. Genesis 19:25-26 (NIV)

- **He lost _____**
 - **They fell into demeaning sin & _____.**

One day the older daughter said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is no man around here to lie with us, as is the custom all over the earth. Let's get our father to drink wine and then lie with him and preserve our family line through our father." That night they got their father to drink wine, and the older daughter went in and lay with him. He was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up. The next day the older daughter said to the younger, "Last night I lay with my father. Let's get him to drink wine again tonight, and you go in and lie with him so we can preserve our family line through our father." So they got their father to drink wine that night also, and the younger daughter went and lay with him. Again he was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up. So both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father. The older daughter had a son, and she named him Moab; he is the father of the Moabites of today. The younger daughter also had a son, and she named him Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the Ammonites of today. Genesis 19:31-38 (NIV)

- **He lost _____ and lived in constant fear**

But Lot said to them, "No, my lords, please! Your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can't flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I'll die. Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it--it is very small, isn't it? Then my life will be spared." Genesis 19:18-20 (NIV)

Lot and his two daughters left Zoar and settled in the mountains, for he was afraid to stay in Zoar. He and his two daughters lived in a cave. Genesis 19:30 (NIV)

Life Lessons From Abraham:

- **He _____ of his acts**

Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the LORD. He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace. Genesis 19:27-28 (NIV)

- **God blessed others because of _____.**

So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived. Genesis 19:29 (NIV)

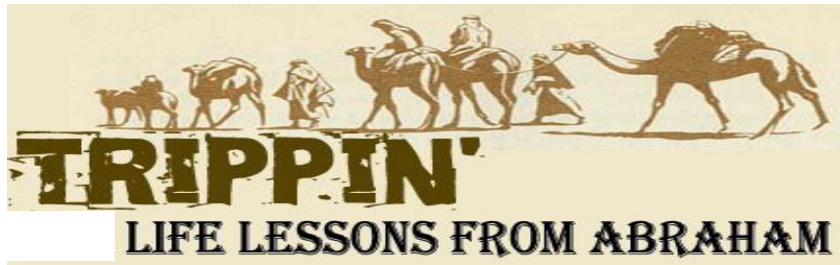
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Now's the time to talk about what you just heard. Feel free to ask any questions you have, but always be respectful and listen to others.

- 1) **It's easy to see Lot as a loser. But how like him are we in many ways? Can you relate to Lot's struggles?**
- 2) **Do you struggle with wanting to "go home again," that is to go back to some place in the past, instead of looking forward to whatever future God has for you?**
- 3) **How many times do we take the easy way out of things? Is that bad, and if so why? Louie said that's rarely something God calls us to do. Agree or disagree and why?**
- 4) **Lot lost almost everything, yet he himself didn't sin as far as we know, He's called righteous in the New Testament (2 Peter 2:7). So why did all these horrible things happen to him and his family?**
- 5) **Do you think Lot is a good example of what happens when you compromise with God's call on your life?**
- 6) **In the midst of all this Abraham was a blessing and had faith. Is he a good example of how we can face trials and suffering today?**



PRAY



LESSON 8 – Oops, I Did It Again!

CONNECT 15 Minutes



Do you think it's common for disciples of Jesus to struggle with bad behavior problems?

How does fear effect you? Does it drive you to act in ways you know you shouldn't?

GROW 45 Minutes



Key Verse

Abraham said, "I did it because I thought, There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife. Genesis 20:11 (ESV)

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TRIPPIN', LESSON # 8

1) Abraham did It _____

When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, "I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake." Genesis 12:11-13 (ESV)

2) Abraham's _____ led him to do it again!

From there Abraham journeyed toward the territory of the Negeb and lived between Kadesh and Shur; and he sojourned in Gerar. And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. Genesis 20:1-2 (ESV)

3) What did Abraham Fear?

Abraham said, "I did it because I thought, There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife. Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife. Genesis 20:11-12 (ESV)

- **Others** _____
- **Losing** _____
- **Losing** _____

4) What Did Abraham do?

- **Tried to** _____ **the situation**

And when God caused me to wander from my father's house, I said to her, 'This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, He is my brother.' " Genesis 20:13 (ESV)

- _____

Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife. Genesis 20:12 (ESV)

- _____ **to protect himself**

Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done." And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What did you see, that you did this thing?" Genesis 20:9-10 (ESV)

5) God intervened and _____

But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife." Now Abimelech had not approached her. So he said, "Lord, will you kill an innocent people? Genesis 20:3-4 (ESV)

Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that you have done this in the integrity of your heart, and it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her. Now then, return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, so that he will pray for you, and you shall

live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.”
Genesis 20:6-7 (ESV)

6) Abimelech was at least as _____ as Abraham

A Vital Truth: Unresolved Fear always leads us into sin, selfishness, and sub-Christian behavior.

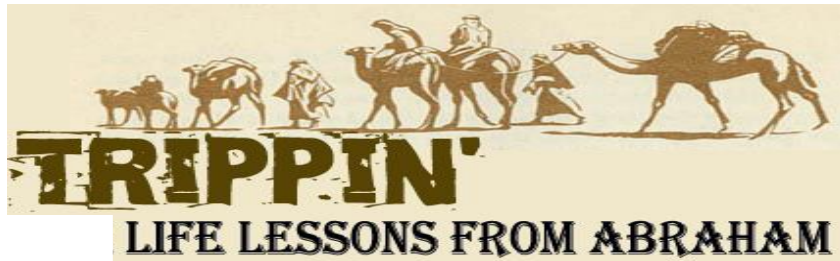
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Now's the time to talk about what you just heard. Feel free to ask any questions you have, but always be respectful and listen to others.

- 1) What are your greatest fears? Name two or three.
- 2) Do you try and control people and things as a way to deal with your fear?
- 3) When you are driven by fear, do you think of others, or only yourself?
- 4) Read 1st John 4:18. According to this verse what is the opposite of fear? Is it a sin for Christians to fear?
- 5) Louie said the Bible often uses the phrase, “fear not.” Do you find real comfort and help with your fears when you turn to God? How does He help you?
- 6) Share with the group two or three things you are going to do this week to live more free from fear.



PRAY



LIFE LESSONS FROM ABRAHAM

LESSON 9 – Intended & Unintended Consequences

CONNECT 15 Minutes



Have you ever made a promise that you tried to keep, but couldn't? What kind of impact did that have on you and the person or people you made the promise to?

What is your favorite promise in the Bible, or which promise of God means most to you right now?

GROW 45 Minutes



Key Verse

And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me." Genesis 21:6 (ESV)

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TRIPPIN', LESSON # 9

1) God keeps his promise - _____

Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age." Genesis 21:1-7 (NIV)

2) God keeps another promise!

But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."

The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son.

But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.

I will make the son of the maidservant into a nation also, because he is your offspring."

Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the desert of Beersheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes.

Then she went off and sat down nearby, about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there nearby, she began to sob.

God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there.

Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation."

Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer.

While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt. Genesis 21:9-21 (NIV)

- He _____ Ishmael,
- Turns him into a _____, which opposes Israel to this very day, 4000 years later!

3) This is a great example of the law of _____

Biblical Examples of Unintended Consequences:

Samson:

Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding in the prison. But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved. Judges 16:21-22 (NIV)

Judges 16:25-30 (NIV)

Jesus Vs. Pharisees:

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes

to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.
Matthew 22:15-22 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Now's the time to talk about what you just heard. Feel free to ask any questions you have, but always be respectful and listen to others.

- 1) **The Bible shows us that God keeps His promises – even though that often takes a long time! From Abraham to 40 years in the wilderness, to us waiting for Christ's return, lots of time has gone by. Does this waiting on the Lord make it harder for you to believe that God will keep his promises? Do you think it makes it hard for others?**
- 2) **Why did God promise to make Ishmael a great nation? He knew his descendents would oppose His Chosen People, so why do it?**
- 3) **Last week we saw Abraham's "issues," this week we see Sarah's. What do you think of the way Sarah acted towards Hagar and Ishmael?**
- 4) **We see examples of unintended consequences everywhere. Do you have a personal story or two to share about unintended consequences in your life?**
- 5) **How can we avoid creating bad or harmful unintended consequences?**
- 6) **Does Romans 8:28 suggest that God uses this "law" of unintended consequences to bless and benefit us and others?**



PRAY



LESSON 10 – Sacrificing My Heart’s Desire

CONNECT 15 Minutes



What is the most important thing or person in your life right now?

If you knew, beyond any doubt, that God was commanding you to sacrifice that person or thing (let them go from your life), would you, could you, do that? Would you resent God for making this demand on

you?

GROW 45 Minutes



Key Verse

Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

Genesis 22:2 (NIV)

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TRIPPIN', LESSON # 10

1) At key points in life _____

Some time later God tested Abraham... Genesis 22:1 (NIV)

- Testing isn't _____
- It's a chance to _____

so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:7 (ESV)

2) God will demand I give Him _____

Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." Genesis 22:2 (NIV)

- **What will it be?**
-

- **This is how God removes the _____**

For any one of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel, who separates himself from me, taking his idols into his heart and putting the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face... Ezekiel 14:7 (ESV)

3) When this happens, I need to _____

So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. Genesis 22:3 (ESV)

4) I must see this as part of my _____

- **This sacrifice is my way to _____**

Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." Genesis 22:5 (ESV)

- **I need to have faith that _____**

And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. Genesis 22:7-8 (ESV)

5) Some important questions to answer.

He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided." Genesis 22:12-14 (ESV)

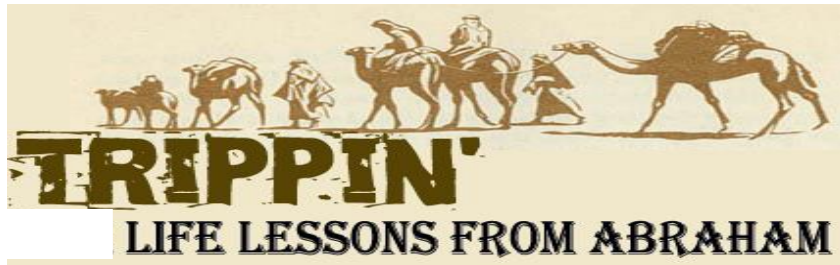
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Now's the time to talk about what you just heard. Feel free to ask any questions you have, but always be respectful and listen to others.

- 1) **Am I willing to let it all go to God?**
- 2) **Will I make the radical sacrifice that God is calling me to make?**
- 3) **What is God calling on me to give up today?**
- 4) **Does it bother you that God commanded Abraham to do something that He condemns as sin (ie. Human sacrifice?)**
- 5) **What about Isaac? What do you think of his attitude in all this? Would you have been so submissive and willing? Or would you have been fighting for your life?**
- 6) **If sacrifice is the essence of worship as Louie said, then what are some of things that you feel a need to continually offer up to God as a sacrifice? Name some of them, and be specific.**



PRAY



LESSON 11 – Keeping the Legacy Alive

CONNECT 15 Minutes



Which
How

GROW 45 Minutes



Key Verse

Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac. But while he was still living, he gave gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them away from his son Isaac to the land of the east. Genesis 25:5-6 (NIV)

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TRIPPIN', LESSON # 11

1) Abraham looked _____

Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah...Abraham gave all he had to Isaac. But to the sons of his concubines Abraham gave gifts, and while he was still living he sent them away from his son Isaac, eastward to the east country. Genesis 25:1-6 (ESV)

- God calls me to be _____

Since my youth, O God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come. Psalms 71:17-18 (NIV)

Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD: The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your fathers have stored up until this day, will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the LORD. And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood, that will be born to you, will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon." "The word of the LORD you have spoken is good," Hezekiah replied. For he thought, **"Will there not be peace and security in my lifetime?"** 2 Kings 20:16-19 (NIV)

2) Abraham _____ until the very end!

that I may make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac." The servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?" Abraham said to him, "See to it that you do not take my son back there.
Genesis 24:3-6 (ESV)

- It's not about starting well but _____

3) God is calling me to _____

While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done." Acts 21:10-14 (ESV)

4) The legacy of my mission is _____

Then Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and full of years; and he was gathered to his people. His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah near Mamre, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite, the field Abraham had bought from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried with his wife Sarah. After Abraham's death, God blessed his son Isaac, who then lived near Beer Lahai Roi. Genesis 25:8-11 (NIV)

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and

wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 2 Timothy 4:1-5 (ESV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Now's the time to talk about what you just heard. Feel free to ask any questions you have, but always be respectful and listen to others.

- 1) How important is it to plan things to pass onto the next generation not only wealth and money, but a spiritual legacy as well?
- 2) Abraham was concerned about what would happen after his death, Hezekiah couldn't have cared less! In a spiritual sense, do you think most disciples of Jesus today are more like Abraham or Hezekiah, and why?
- 3) Is it easy or hard for you to stay on mission? Why or why not?
- 4) Louie said it's all about finishing well, and that this applies to more than just old people, but to everything we do for the Lord. How do you feel about this? Do you think you are on track to finish well, or do you need to make some major changes to accomplish that goal?
- 5) One of the things that finishing well means is to pass onto our children and grandchildren a vibrant Christian faith, and healthy churches. How well are we doing in that regard? Do you think the older generation of Christian in America are finishing well?
- 6) Louie said the legacy of his mission and ministry are in your hands. How worried should he be right about now?



PRAY



LESSON 12 – Abraham in the New Testament

CONNECT 15 Minutes



Why study Abraham anyway? We're New Testament believers, so how can he be relevant to us today?

When you think of Abraham from a New Testament perspective, what stands about him the most? How is he viewed in the New Testament?

GROW 45 Minutes



Key Verse

Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. Romans 4:10-11a (NIV)

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TRIPPIN', LESSON # 12

1) In the New Testament Abraham is presented to us as the _____

2) Abraham - Father of the _____, & the _____

- Abraham followed God on the basis of a _____ – NOT _____

To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran.

'Leave your country and your people,' God said, 'and go to the land I will show you.'
"So he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. After the death of his father, God sent him to this land where you are now living. He gave him no inheritance here, not even a foot of ground. But God promised him that he and his descendants after him would possess the land, even though at that time Abraham had no child. God spoke to him in this way: 'Your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves,' God said, 'and afterward they will come out of that country and worship me in this place.' Acts 7:2-7 (NIV)

- **Abraham is the father of circumcision – not _____**

Then he gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. And Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him eight days after his birth. Later Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs. Acts 7:2-8 (NIV)

- **The sign of the Old Covenant came _____**

3) Abraham Father of being _____

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about--but not before God. What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him." Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. Romans 4:1-9 (NIV)

- **Abraham was justified _____**

Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. Romans 4:10-11a (NIV)

- **Abraham is the father of _____ – Jews & Gentiles alike!**

So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. And he is also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. Romans 4:11b-12 (NIV)

- **Abraham was saved by _____ – just like us!**

It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be

heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring--not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed--the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. Romans 4:13- 17(NIV)

- **Abraham foreshadows the salvation that comes through _____**

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness--for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. Romans 4:18-25 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Now's the time to talk about what you just heard. Feel free to ask any questions you have, but always be respectful and listen to others.

- 1) **Why does Abraham play such a major role in the New Testament? How is he separate from the Law of Moses?**
- 2) **Abraham believed God based on a promise, and so do we! In the New Testament much is made of us being Abraham's spiritual children. Honestly now, do you really care about that at all? If so why?**
- 3) **This is our final study in the Trippin' Series. Share with the group the two or three most important things you will take away from this study.**
- 4) **Poll the group about what other topics or books they'd might like to see me produce video lessons on, and e-mail them to me (gunghoson@gmail.com)**
- 5) **Plan a party for next week, and celebrate what God has done in your lives through this study!**



PRAY

SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

GROUP AGREEMENT

It's a good idea for every group to put words to their shared values, expectations, and commitments. Such an agreement will help you avoid unspoken agendas and unmet expectations. We recommend you discuss your agreement during session 1 in order to lay the foundation for a healthy group experience. Feel free to modify anything that does not work for your group.

If the idea of a written agreement is unfamiliar to your group, we encourage you to give it a try.

We agree to the following VALUES:

Clear Purpose	To grow healthy spiritual lives by building a healthy small group community
Group Attendance	To give priority to the group meeting (call if I am absent or late)
Safe Environment	To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved (no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes)
Be Confidential	To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group
Spiritual Health	To give group members permission to help me live a healthy, balanced spiritual life that is pleasing to God
Welcome Newcomers	To invite our friends who might benefit from this study and warmly welcome newcomers
Building Relationships	To get to know the other members of the group and pray for them regularly

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who may attend group?

Anybody you feel would benefit. As you begin, we encourage each attender to invite at least one other friend to join. The best time to have people join the group is in the first or second week of a new study. Take some time at your first meeting to share names of friends of group members so that as a group you can pray that they might be open to attend.

How long will this group meet?

This series is 12 weeks long, and we are encouraging groups to add one additional week for a celebration. At the end of this study, each group member may decide if he or she desires to continue on for another study.

Who is the leader?

Most groups have a leader. If you do not have a leader, take a few minutes to talk about who will be the leader in your group. We encourage you to select one or more discussion leaders. We recommend that you rotate the job of facilitating your discussions, creating opportunities for everyone's gifts to develop.

Where do we find new group members for our group?

This can be an issue for groups, especially new groups starting with just a few people, or existing groups that lose a few people along the way. We encourage you to brainstorm a list of people from your work, church, neighborhood, children's school, family, the gym, and so on. Then pray for the people on each member's list. Have each group member invite several people on their list. No matter how you find members, it is important to continue actively looking for new people to join your group. All groups go through some healthy attrition as a result of moves, releasing new leaders, ministry opportunities, and so forth. If the group gets too small, it runs the risk of shutting down. Remember, the next person you add just might become a friend for eternity. You never know.

How do we handle the childcare needs in our group?

Very carefully. We suggest that you seek creative solutions as a group. One common solution is to meet in the living room with the adults and share the cost of a babysitter (or two) who can be with the kids in another part of the house. Another popular option is to have one home for the kids and a second home (close by) for the adults. If desired, the adults could rotate the responsibility of providing a lesson for the kids.

What if we cannot get through all the content each week?

The curriculum is provided to serve you as a group and as a leader. Do not feel obligated to get through all the content in this study guide. Be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit during your group meeting. Many groups are able to complete these study guides in the suggested 12 weeks, while others take several extra weeks. Please feel free to adjust your pace according to the needs of your group.