



## GROUP DISCUSSION

- ❑ **CONFIDENTIALITY** | What's said in the group stays in the group.
- ❑ **NO CROSS-TALK** | Be considerate of others as they share. Refrain from side conversations and texting during group time.
- ❑ **NO FIXING** | We are not in the group to fix each other. Jesus does that part.
- ❑ **SHARING** | Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Don't talk too much or too little. Every person brings something valuable to the group.



## INTRODUCTION

*As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.*

# GROWING THROUGH FAILURE

Even the best of us fail from time to time. It's part of life. We are human, and, as Martin Luther once wrote, "Men at their best are at their best men." The Bible is such a compelling story because its characters are real and relatable. You see them at their best and sometimes at their worst. They perform heroic acts and show powerful faith, but they also make bone-headed decisions and do things that make us scratch our heads.

If you want to grow your faith, you should expect to grow through some failures. This week your group will discuss Abraham's first test of faith and how he responded.

**Q:** *Why is it important to acknowledge that we all fail?*



## DEEPER DIVE

Select 2–3 questions to discuss as a group.

## TEST TIME

Abraham finds himself in a crisis moment. There's a famine in the land, which is near the top of the list of worst crises in the ancient world. He's in a bind and needs to do something. But instead of seeking God, Abraham starts scheming and comes up with a plan that blows up in his face.

**READ:** *Genesis 12:10–13:4. What thoughts must have been going through Abraham's head that led him to make a foolish decision?*

**Q:** *Share about a past or current test of your faith. What happened? What did you learn?*

**Q:** *How does God show His faithfulness in this story?*



## REFLECTION AND NEXT STEPS

Select 2–3 questions from this section to answer.

## PASSING THE TEST

Abraham failed his first test of faith. He acted foolishly and out of his flesh. But Abraham's failure wasn't the end of the story. God welcomed him back, and Abraham worshiped God at his altar with a renewed sense of God's grace and mercy.

Life is filled with tests. They often come without warning. When these tests come, what will you do to pass them? Let's look at three things you can do:

- *Expect the unexpected.* God doesn't promise you a problem-free life. In fact, He tells you that you *will* face difficulty. So, expect that your faith will be tested.
- *Seek Him.* God uses these tests of faith to grow your faith. So, when it's test time, don't panic. Don't rely

on your feelings in the moment. Don't make rash decisions. Instead, seek God. Seek Him in prayer, in His Word and with other believers.

- *Repent and return to Him.* Of course, there will be times when you fail the test. In the face of failure, the enemy will tell you that your failure is final or that you're a failure. When you fail, remember that failure is an event, not a person. Repent and return to the God of new beginnings, who is ready to forgive and welcome you back.

♀: *Why is it unwise to rely on your feelings in the moment?*

♀: *How are you currently seeking God in your life?*



**PRAY**

Praise God that, even when you fail, He will not give up on you and is faithful to forgive you. Pray against the enemy's schemes, and stand on the truth that failure isn't final and God's mercies are new for you every morning.