



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.

A TROUBLE-FREE LIFE?

Some think the Christian life should be trouble-free and, if there is any kind of struggle, something is wrong. Well, the Christian life certainly is filled with God's blessing, but it is anything but trouble-free. We all go through peaks and valleys, ebbs and flows, on this journey called a life of faith. And we certainly have times of trouble and struggle.

This week your group will discuss a time when Abraham struggled with fear and doubt and how God lifted Abraham's eyes to Him and His promises. Even in seasons of struggle, God's promises can strengthen your faith.

Q: *How can struggling be a good thing?*



DEEPER DIVE

Select 2–3 questions to discuss as a group.

ANOTHER BATTLE

Abraham proved to be a warrior on the battlefield. In Genesis 14, he successfully rescued his nephew Lot, and things look great for him. But fear and doubt start to creep in. Over what, we aren't sure. But the reality is that he and Sarah are getting older by the day, and God's promise to give him an heir still hasn't been fulfilled. God sees Abraham and does something incredible to remind Abraham of who He is and that nothing is impossible for Him.

Q: Have one to two volunteers read Genesis 15:1–21. How does God show His faithfulness in the story? And how does Abraham show his faith?

Q: What are some common fears and doubts people have at your age and stage in life? Can you relate to any of those personally?

Q: What kinds of conclusions are you tempted to make about God and life with your fears and doubts? Are those conclusions rational? Why or why not?



REFLECTION AND NEXT STEPS

Select 2–3 questions from this section to answer.

ONE MORE COURAGEOUS STEP

It's quite remarkable that Abraham, the father of our faith, struggled with fear and doubt. He's supposed to be the model of faith, right? Well, Abraham shows us that even the best of us struggles with fear and doubt. It's the reality of being a man or woman and not God. This doesn't surprise God. In fact, He expects it and meets us in the midst of our struggle with reassurance and comfort.

Abraham teaches us three crucial things we can do in the struggle for faith:

- *Acknowledge.* The first thing you can do is be honest and admit your struggle. God understands your fears and doubts, and He gives you permission to “cast your anxieties on Him, because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7)
- *Listen.* Life is filled with distractions, and it’s easy to let them drown out the voice of the Father. God wants you to tune out whatever keeps you from listening to Him. His promise is a 100% guarantee—when you seek Him, you will find Him and He will show you great and mighty things.
- *Believe.* We don’t get to see God’s work schedule. He works on His own timing, and all He asks us to do is believe His promises and that nothing is impossible with Him. Abraham hoped against hope that God would be true to His promises. There are times when God calls us to do the same.

🗣️: *Is it easy or hard for you to admit your struggles to others? Explain.*

🗣️: *What’s one thing you can do this week to tune out distractions and listen to the Father’s voice?*

🗣️: *Take the next week to look through promises of God found in the Bible and claim one for yourself (you can easily search for a list of them online). Share with the group next week.*



PRAY

Acknowledge God’s awesome power and ability to do the impossible. Next, spend time in confession and share with the Father any fears or doubts you can’t seem to shake off. Ask Him to speak to you, and listen for His voice. Finish with a declaration to believe in His promises no matter what.