

TALK IT OVER

ONCE UPON A MARRIAGE FAITH-LESS OR FAITH-FULL? - WEEK 3

Talking through the message during the week helps you put what God is saying to you into action. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

With your Bible or YouVersion, read Genesis 12:1-9 and Hebrews 11:8.

These verses describe how Abraham obeyed God's calling to leave home. Even though he didn't know where he was going, Abraham and Sarah demonstrated faith in God by obeying.

- Describe a time when it took faith to do something that God led you to do? What did this situation teach you about trusting in God?
- What did your earliest dreams of marriage look like? How different is your life now from how you thought it would be?

Read Genesis 12:10-20.

Abraham gives into his fear in this passage. We see his faith falter as he asks his wife Sarah to pretend to be his sister so he isn't killed.

- Describe a time when you gave into your own fear and did not rely on God. What did you learn from this experience?
- How have seen fear affect your relationships with others and with God?

Read Genesis 16:1-6.

Sarah grows impatient waiting on God's promise to give her a child in this passage, so she asks Abraham to marry Hagar so that she can give them a child.

- Why is it so hard for most of us to be patient while waiting on God to answer our prayers? Why do you think God makes us wait sometimes?
- Sarah's impatience caused her to get ahead of God's timing of keeping His promise. How have you seen impatience negatively affect your relationships?

Read Genesis 17:17, 18:12-14, and Romans 4:19-21.

Even though Abraham and Sarah endured faithless seasons, Romans 4 shows us that they did not lose faith. Their faith was ultimately strengthened when God fulfilled His promise.

- Discuss how each of the faithless seasons has played out in your life. Which one do you identify with the most?
- What are some specific things you can do to have the kind of faith that Abraham and Sarah had?
- Even with faithless seasons, Abraham and Sarah are icons of faith. How will you live from now on so your life (and marriage) will be characterized by faith?

NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week to help you have a stronger marriage or prepare for a marriage that honors God.

Spend time with your spouse writing a vision statement for your marriage based on faith in God not just your personal goals. Put this written document where you can see it on a regular basis.

Spend time reading Hebrews 11, known as the faith chapter. Let God speak to you as you read about the great things that have been accomplished as a result of having faith in God.

Use these prayer tips to guide your time with God this week to expand your conversations both in person and online:

- Confess those areas of your life in prayer where you lack faith. Ask God to strengthen your faith.
- Share with God in prayer the fears that have a hold on you. Ask God to help you remove all fears.
- Pray and ask God to give you more patience in all of your relationships and with God.
- Pray and ask God to help give you a vision for your marriage or any other important relationships in your life.
- Read Hebrews 11 and then ask God to stir the kind of faith within you that is described in this passage.