

#5 This weekend we saw that God’s grace continued to find Abraham, in spite of Abraham’s failure of trust, skepticism, impatience, doubt, and desire to take matters into his own hands. Perhaps it was this gift of *grace upon grace* over the years that brought Abraham to the point of saying “here I am” in response to the Lord near the end of his life (see Genesis 22). As you read the passage below, make note of how the grace of God can help us grow in our faithfulness to the Lord.

Titus 2:11-14, NIV

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

How does this passage add to your understanding of the power of God’s grace?

How can we accept God’s grace during life’s storms? How can we show those who are suffering that same grace, without being cliché or simplistic?

BE VULNERABLE

#6 Abraham finally got to the point where he could live out the definition of faith found in Hebrews 11:1—“*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see*” (NIV). What holds you back from living out this level of faith? If you feel like you’re at a place where you do embody this definition of faith, then what circumstances have you overcome in your faith journey to get there?

#7 In what area of your life is God currently calling you to trust him? What is one thing you can do this week to trust him more? What can your Life Group do to support you?

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Commit to pray for at least 3 prayer requests from your Life Group)

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GRACE
all the way to
JESUS

Pastor Brandon Babcock, Ph.D.

March 10, 2024

Grace All the Way to Jesus: Part 1
springfieldfaithcenter.org/sermons

GRACE FOUND ABRAHAM

Genesis 12:1-9

God’s Grace to Abra(ha)m:

- ❶ Call to leave the old life behind and walk in obedience
- ❷ Three promises – descendants, land, and blessing
- ❸ God’s faithfulness during a long journey of faith

Final Thoughts:

LIFE GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

For the week of March 10, 2024

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

BE FRIENDLY

#1 Thinking back to when you were a child, where did you want to live when you grew up?

#2 When have you seen someone demonstrate great faith, despite his or her circumstances?

BE OPEN

#3 In this weekend's text, God calls Abram (later named Abraham) to leave his security blanket behind for an unknown land promised by God: "go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you" (Genesis 12:1, NIV). In effect, Abram is asked to forsake everything he holds dear and have faith in the simple Word of God. The call of the gospel is much like the call of Abram. Read the passages below and answer the questions that follow.

Mark 8:34-38, NIV

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Luke 9:57-62, NIV

⁵⁷ As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

⁵⁹ He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

⁶¹ Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." ⁶² Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

What does this phrase mean to you? – "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Luke 9:34, NIV).

How is the demand in Jesus' explanation similar to the call of Abram? How is it different?

Why do you think Jesus is so demanding?

#4 Abraham's story reminds us to never forget the power of God's Word. How do the following verses reinforce the power of God's Word and the importance of listening to it or doing what it says?

2 Timothy 3:16-17, NIV

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Psalms 119:11, NIV

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Psalms 33:4-6, NIV

⁴ For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. ⁵ The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love. ⁶ By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

Romans 15:4, NIV

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

John 12:44-50, NIV

⁴⁴ Then Jesus cried out, "When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. ⁴⁵ When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me. ⁴⁶ I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. ⁴⁷ "As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. ⁴⁸ There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day. ⁴⁹ For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. ⁵⁰ I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."