

# ABRAHAM



a faith-filled friend of God

**SMALL GROUP GUIDE**

**PASTOR DAVID SMITH**

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## **A faith-filled friend of God**

### Small Group Study Guide

*By David Smith*

This booklet is intended to serve as a study guide for the sermon preached by Pastor David Smith at Oak Park Church on Sunday, June 29, 2025. This booklet or the contents thereof are produced for the spiritual enrichment of those who use it. It is not intended or permitted to be sold or used for financial profit.

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## Small Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Focus: Romans 15:4; Genesis 12–22

Big Idea:

Abraham was called “God’s friend” not because he was perfect, but because he continually returned to the altar—a place of surrender, sacrifice, and relationship with God. His life models five altars every believer needs.

### Opening Question

**Icebreaker:**

Can you think of a time when a decision someone else made taught you a valuable lesson? What did you learn?

**Read Aloud: Romans 15:4**

*“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”*

### 1. The First Altar – Salvation

Genesis 12:1,7 – God calls Abraham out of idolatry and he builds his first altar.

Discussion Questions:

- Why is it important to recognize the moment you first surrendered to God?
- If you’ve had a “first altar” experience, what did it look like for you?
- Who are you praying for to come to that first altar? How can we join you in that?

Application:

Take time this week to reflect on your spiritual journey. Journal your “first altar” story or share it with someone who needs hope.

## **2. The Family Altar – Spiritual Leadership at Home**

Genesis 12:8 – Abraham builds an altar with his household.

Discussion Questions:

- What does it look like to have a “family altar” in your home?
- How do you intentionally invite God into your home life (prayer, devotion, worship)?
- What obstacles get in the way of praying with your family?

Application:

Commit to one intentional spiritual practice as a family this week—whether it’s praying together, reading Scripture, or attending church as a unit.

## **3. The Forgiveness Altar – When We Fall**

Genesis 12:10–13:4 – Abraham lies in Egypt, but returns to the altar at Bethel.

Discussion Questions:

- Why is it important to return to God after we mess up?
- Have you experienced God’s forgiveness after a personal failure? What changed?
- What’s the difference between shame and conviction?

Application:

Read 1 John 1:9 this week and memorize it. If there's something weighing on you, confess it to God and receive His grace.

#### **4. The Fellowship Altar – Prioritizing God's Presence**

Genesis 13:18 – Abraham separates from Lot and builds an altar at Hebron.

Discussion Questions:

- What does fellowship with God look like in your day-to-day life?
- Who's in your "inner circle"? Do they push you closer to God or pull you away?
- How do you protect time alone with God?

Application:

Carve out 15–30 minutes this week to sit with God in prayer and silence. Ask Him to reveal areas where He wants deeper fellowship with you.

#### **5. The Faith-Giving Altar – Trusting God Completely**

Genesis 22:1–14 – Abraham offers Isaac but trusts God's provision.

Discussion Questions:

- Has God ever asked you to surrender something precious?
- How do you respond when God tests your faith?
- What does "Jehovah Jireh" mean to you in this season?

Application:

Write down something you're struggling to trust God with. Lay it before Him in prayer this week—surrender it at the faith-giving altar.

## **Closing Reflection & Prayer**

Go Around the Circle:

Which of the five altars do you need to rebuild or revisit most right now—and why?

Pray Together:

- For deeper surrender at the first altar
- For revival of the family altar
- For grace at the forgiveness altar
- For intimacy at the fellowship altar
- For courage at the faith-giving altar

## **Optional Worship or Media Resource:**

Listen to or read the lyrics of “That’s What This Altar Is For” by Walt Mills. Reflect on how God is calling you back to the altar in some area of your life.