



TOOLS FOR LIFE

Singles: Spend some time looking up testimonies online of other people who have put their faith in Christ alone. Search iamsecond.com and be encouraged by other believer's stories of how God is able!

Married: Go out on a date to a garden center or a nursery. Look at the different plants and reflect on how each of them came from a small seed. Discuss with each other how your faith has grown over the past year. Remind yourself it is not the size of your faith that matters, but it's the power of the object of your faith.

Parents of Preschoolers: Play a hide and seek with a toy lamb or picture of a lamb with your child. Comment that Abraham trusted God to provide a lamb for the sacrifice. We trust God because He provided Jesus as a sacrifice for us.

Parents of K-6: Talk with your child about something you could ask them to do and they would do it because they trust you, but if someone else asked them to do it they would not. Like Abraham, we can trust God and put our faith in Him. When God asks us to do something we can take action without fear.

Parents of Teen: Go to the park at night with your teen. Spend time looking at the stars (count them, find shapes by connecting them, etc.) Discuss with them how God promised Abraham as many descendants as the stars and how God always keeps His promises.



OPTIONAL ICE BREAKER

Say your name and share the name of someone who was a spiritual role model/example for you.



LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Read Romans 4:18-25. What was one of your biggest takeaways from the sermon?
2. One way we learn is by watching someone else's godly example. Share something you do now because you witnessed another believer demonstrating it first.
3. Sometimes Christians expect God to keep promises that He never made. What "promises" have you heard Christians say about God or misquoted out of context from scripture? How would you define *reading Scripture in context*? How important is it for a believer to read verses in context?
4. Abraham had to face reality when it seemed hopeless. How do you deal with things when they seem hopeless?
5. Read Psalm 42:1-5. Share a time when your soul experienced verse 5.
6. What have been some of the greatest obstacles you've personally faced that tested and strengthened your faith in God?
7. What impossible things have you seen God do in other people physically? What impossible things have you witnessed God do in other people spiritually? What impossible things has God done in you spiritually? (Not *for* you, but *in* you)
8. It is not the size of our faith, but the power of the object of our faith that matters. Finish this sentence: If people heard my testimony, they would see that God is bigger than...

 **FURTHER STUDY**

Luke 18:27 (NIV) [*Usually quoted out of its context, but the truth is constant*] Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

Galatians 3:26-29 (NIV)

²⁶So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Genesis 18:14 (NIV)

Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.

1 Peter 1:21 (NIV)

Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

Luke 17:3-6 (NIV)

³So watch yourselves. “If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. ⁴Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying ‘I repent,’ you must forgive them.” ⁵The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.”

(Referring to Romans 4:18-21) “The terms *hope* and *faith* are related, but they are not the same. Hope, in this case, is the desire for something that might be true or might happen, whereas faith is the firm confidence that it *is* true or *will* happen.” —**John MacArthur**

“The Jesus of Mormonism (the brother of the devil), the Jesus of the Jehovah’s Witnesses (an angel made into a man), the Jesus of the New Age (a man in tune with the divine consciousness), etc., cannot save you from your sins. Faith is only as good as who you put it in. Only the Jesus of the Bible can do that. Jesus is God in flesh, the creator. Jesus is the Second Person of the Trinity. —**www.carm.org**

“Some people are under the impression that when a person has ‘faith’ he inwardly agrees to ignore the facts. They see faith and facts as mutually exclusive. Faith without reason is *fideism*; reason without faith is *rationalism*. In practice there must be no reduction of faith to reason. Likewise, there must be no reduction of reason to faith. Biblical faith is a composite of the two. Abraham did not take an unreasonable leap of faith. How did Abraham come to such a massive exercise of faith? He weighed the human impossibility of becoming a father against the divine impossibility of God being able to break His word and decided that if God was God, nothing is impossible.” —**Kent Hughes**

The faith of Abraham was a faith in the promise of God to make him the father of many nations. This faith glorified God because it called attention to all the omnipotent, supernatural resources of God that would be required to fulfill it. Abraham was too old to have children, and Sarah was barren. Not only that: How do you turn a son or two into “many nations,” which God said Abraham would be the father of? It all seemed totally impossible. Therefore, Abraham’s faith glorified God by being fully assured that he could and would do the humanly impossible. This is the faith we are called to have. That God will do for us what we could never do for ourselves. —**John Piper**

