What is the heat in your life that usually causes you to be fearful or anxious or despairing? Psalm 18:1 says, “whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment”. In order to avoid this, who are two to three Truth-saturated people you can call when you need a reality check? Don’t have anyone in your life that fits that description? Are you a part of a life group yet? Maybe it’s time to join one.

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**May 23rd, 2021**

**Genesis 12:10-20**

**Abram’s Starting and Stumbling**

**SERMON NOTES**

**My takeaways:**

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# \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are part of God’s

# Traded \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for

# Traded \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the

# God is unwaveringly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to keep His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Tools for Today:**

# 1. When trials come, turn to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ instead of your own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# 2. God uses His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ despite their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS**

1. What insight, lesson, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? How was your experience with the Life Tool’s this past week?

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2. Read James 1:2-4. What should be a Christian’s attitude when facing trials? How often is this your attitude in your own hard times?

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3. Read Romans 5:3-5. How can a believer’s Christlike endurance of suffering offer a testimony of hope to others?

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4. Why do you think this story of Abram’s deception follows the section where God makes Abram such a great promise?

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5. What do you think about Abram’s scheme to stay alive? How has your lack of trust in God led to you trying to make your own plans without God?

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6. How can Abram be considered the “hero of the faith” and have this passage be part of his story? How might we gain confidence in our faith through God’s faithfulness to Abram?

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7. How can Abram’s failures encourage us when we fall short of what God would have us do?

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8. How can you use your personal experience with God’s faithfulness to help those currently facing hardship?

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**LIFE TOOLS**

**Parents of Pre-K – 6th:** Do the water bottle challenge with your children where you drink some of the water in the bottle and try to flip the bottle to land upright. After a few attempts talk about how it’s hard to complete the challenge and do it the right way. Just like we didn’t always do the challenge the right way we do the same in following God but he still loves us and can use despite our mistakes.

**Parents of Teens:** Gather your student(s), and while you read/walk through Genesis 12 consider this pattern: Disobedience“ -> Insecurity -> Fears -> Immoral Decisions. Disobedience takes one from the peace of God so that they must rely on their own tactics and resources. While Obedience -> Trust -> Peace -> Good Decisions. Obedience keeps you in a wonderful reliance upon God. Finally, discuss this question: Are you right now experiencing God’s peace or facing insecure feelings? Why?

**Life Tools for Singles:** When the heat of trials starts to make us sweat and fear we’re going to be burned, our faith often falters and we fail to trust God with our future. We almost always assume bad things are sure to befall us instead of believing that “for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28). Like Abram, thinking we’ll make provision for ourselves, we begin compromising our beliefs, telling others (and ourselves) half-truths and taking actions that, like Abram, lead us further away from God’s good plan. From what we can see from this passage, Abram acted without much wise counsel. As a single person, we can also sometimes act unilaterally when we should first reach out to others for biblically-guided, Spirit-filled wisdom and prayer.