

The Father of Faith

Chapter 8

Audio Lesson: Old Testament Survey lesson eight



Objective: To understand the importance of faith through the example of Abraham.



Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

—Hebrews 11:6

Abraham is considered the father of faith, and he is mentioned more times in the New Testament than any other Old Testament character. When Abraham was 75, God told him to leave his home country and go into a barren wilderness. He also told him that he would be the father of many descendants. For a 75-year-old childless man to believe that promise required a lot of faith.

God initiated the relationship by appearing to Abraham eight times. Abraham responded by building four altars over many years, each one illustrating his level of commitment to God. The fourth altar, built at God's request to sacrifice Isaac, the promised son, was the most significant. There Abraham demonstrated his total trust in God and that God was entirely first in his life.





Choose one best answer unless instructed otherwise.

1. True or false? Abraham always had faith and trusted God completely.
2. True or false? Sacrificing Isaac made perfect sense to Abraham.
3. True or false? In the story of Abraham we learn that when God and man have a relationship, it is because God initiated it.
4. Remember the four altars Abraham built showing his growing commitment and trust in God? Match the following altars with the message Abraham was giving in each one.

a. the plains of Moreh (teaching or seeking)	i. "Teach me"
b. between Hai and Bethel (between misery and the house of God)	ii. "I want to know you"
c. Hebron (communion)	iii. "God first"
d. a mountain in Moriah (God will provide)	iv. "I am not sure"
5. What did Abraham and Sarah do first when God told them He would give them a son?
 - a. They argued with God.
 - b. They laughed.
 - c. They believed God completely.
 - d. They told God it was too late and impossible.
6. What is one thing Ishmael's story represents to us?
 - a. the fulfillment of God's promise
 - b. the evidence of Abraham's faith
 - c. Abraham's total dependence on God
 - d. the greatest enemy of God's best is something good

7. What is one thing Lot represents to us?
- a. the people we put in our lives that God does not want in our lives
 - b. the people God uses to encourage us
 - c. people who are examples of faith
 - d. people who are examples of purity
8. What is one thing Sarah represents to us?
- a. people who try to make us stumble
 - b. people we do not recognize as God's provision for us
 - c. women who are more faithful than their husbands
 - d. the fact that God always does what is expected
9. When Abraham finally put God first in his life by offering Isaac to God, how did God respond?
- a. God provided a substitute sacrifice for Isaac.
 - b. God blessed Abraham.
 - c. God followed through on all His promises.
 - d. all of the above



The message of the Bible can be summarized as "God first." Are there any areas in your life in which God is not first? What steps can you take to make Him your first priority?



Thank God for the example of faith of Abraham. Pray and ask God to strengthen your faith and for you to know and follow God like Abraham did. Ask God to help you to put Him first in your life and to trust Him completely in every area of your life.



Going Deeper

1. When God wants to communicate a great idea, He wraps it in a person. What idea did God wrap in the person of Abraham? (Consider Hebrews 11:6) _____

2. How did the two names of this man demonstrate the greatness of his faith? _____

3. How did the four altars of Abraham demonstrate the growth and development of Abraham's faith? _____

4. Relate each of these altars to the growth and development of your own faith. _____

5. By application, how many of these altars have you built in your journey of faith? Explain.

6. Discuss what Lot, Ishmael, Sarah and Isaac represented in the growth of Abraham's faith.

7. Name and explain two things that were provided or proven on Mount Moriah, when Abraham built the altar of "God first." _____
