

Big Idea

Today we're going to take a look at Abraham – The Father of Faith. Abraham knows what it's like to feel discouraged. He was promised to be the father of many nations, but yet he remained fatherless. He began to believe that God's promise of a son would never be fulfilled. The truth is that we don't usually see things the way God does. He sees the beginning and the end – He knows everything at the same time. Often, we feel like God is making a mistake when situations in our lives don't make sense or turn out like we hoped. These are the times we have to trust God. Here is what Abraham went through, let's learn from him:

1. **God always does the right thing even if it takes a long time it takes a long time.** God is notorious for taking a long time. Our timing and God's timing are rarely ever the same. God is patient (2 Peter 3:9). Abraham and his wife Sara though they would "help" speed up God's plan and they agreed that Abraham would sleep with her servant, Hagar. They thought this could be how they could build a family. This was how Ishmael was born, who is called the Father of the Arab Nations. And all kinds of problems began, because Abraham & Sarah were not patient.
2. **God always does the right thing even if it seems absurd.** When Abraham was 99 and Sarah 89, God told Abraham that his wife will have a son. Sarah laughed in disbelief and the Lord's response was "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:10-14)
3. **God always does the right thing even when we don't understand.** Out of the blue, God told Abraham that He wanted him to sacrifice his only son for Him. This was the first time ever in Abraham's life that He does not push back on what God wants. Why? Because Abraham had gotten to the place where he completely trusted God. Abraham was going to sacrifice his son even though God has told him that it was through this son that his offspring would be reckoned. Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead... (Hebrews 11:17-19).

The more you know Him, the more you trust Him.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

Discussion Questions

- Talk about a time that you prayed for one thing, but God did something different. How have you seen God's hand in the result of the outcome? Or are you still waiting to see the good come from your unanswered prayer?
- Which story (#1,2,3) can you relate to the most from Abraham?
- Which do you struggle with the most – patience with God or trusting that God is doing the right thing?
- Where have you experienced God's victory in any of these lessons?

Next Steps

- How can we pray for you this week? Write down each person's prayer requests and make it a point to pray for them and text them with an encouraging word at some point during the week.

Prayer Focus

- Pray for our faith in the Lord to grow, that we will trust in His appointed time.
- Pray for our patience with God as He is patient with us.
- Pray for God to stop the spread of the coronavirus.