



## Lesson 2 | The Highs and Lows of a Life of Faith Genesis 12:4-20

The life of faith is filled with ups and downs. There are times when our faith is strong, and times when we trust our own wisdom rather than simply trust God and His promises. Abraham, although a man of great faith, knew this pattern well and his example can be instructive for us both positively and negatively.

### Abram Journeys in the Promised (12:4-9)

#### True Faith Obeys \_\_\_\_\_

There is some debate about when God called Abram, but Genesis presents Abram as obeying right after hearing God's command. Throughout the life of Abraham, we will see that whenever God speaks, Abraham does what God requires immediately.

#### True Faith Sacrifices \_\_\_\_\_

When Abram leaves Haran, he is 75 years old and leaves a place where he had acquired all the possessions and servants. But Abram was willing to give up even a place where he was being blessed to faithfully follow God.

#### True Faith \_\_\_\_\_ God

Abram's life shows a humble dependence on God and a fervent devotion to God. Wherever Abram goes, we read of him building places of worship. While worship obviously looks very different in the twenty-first century, the priority that Abram is putting on worship is instructive for us.



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## True Faith Must Be Ready for \_\_\_\_\_

In the midst of Abram's faithful obedience, a trial hits. Suddenly, there's a famine. As people of faith, we must be ready for the twists that come our way as we serve God.

### Abram Heads to Egypt (12:10-20)

#### Abram Failed to \_\_\_\_\_ of God

Should Abram have gone down to Egypt? There's nothing explicitly saying he couldn't. But we never read Abram asking God. It can be all too easy to go from living by faith to living by our own wisdom.

#### Abram Failed to \_\_\_\_\_ God

Abram's decisions while in Egypt show no awareness of God or faith in His protection. Abram lies, abandons his wife, and to make it all worse profits from all his deception and scheming. Once we start down a path without God in the picture, He tends to get disappear in the background while our problems loom larger in front of us until we are desperately doing whatever we can to try and solve them.

#### Abram \_\_\_\_\_ Those around Him

God told Abram at the beginning of the chapter that if he obeyed, God would make him a blessing to all nations. Yet sadly, in the first account we have of Abram interacting with a foreign nation we read of his selfish choices spelling disaster for the Egyptians.

#### Abram Failed to \_\_\_\_\_ God

Later in Abram's life people will look at him and recognize that God is with him. But here, Pharaoh angrily tells Abram to leave. Pharaoh's quick, rapid-fire questions show how upset he is, and the fact that he commands his soldiers to get Abram and his stuff out of Egypt shows how low an opinion Pharaoh had of Abram. One of the worst things that happens when we decide to live by our wits rather than trust God is that we fail to point people to God.

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