



**EXCEEDINGLY ABUNDANTLY
ABRAHAM'S FAITH JOURNEY
Devotion And Discussion Guide**

Ephesians 3:20-21 ESV

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Opening Thoughts:

- God's plan for you (and for our church) is exceedingly abundantly above all!
- To fulfill His plan in our lives, we must grow in faith.
- This series, "Exceedingly Abundantly," will take us on a journey through the lives of 5 Biblical characters that we may learn from them and challenge our own faith to a greater level.

Key Takeaway: This faith journey is not about what God wants *from* us, but what God wants *for* us.

- Abraham's faith journey culminates with a test of faith found in Genesis 22. Three times during that test Abraham says "Here I Am."
- Abraham grew in his faith as he surrendered what was in his *head*, his *hand*, and his *heart*.

1) The First "Here I Am" Lesson: You Can't Move Forward Looking in the Rearview Mirror,

- Read Genesis 22:1-5. This is where God challenges his **head**. Abraham has been on a 25-year faith journey.
- As you review the following narrative of Abraham's journey, can you note the missteps he had along the way? What did he learn from these missteps?
 - The Call to Canaan (Gen. 12:1-9)
 - The Escape to Egypt (Gen. 12:10-20)
 - The Mistake with the Mistress (Gen. 16:1-16)
- How would you summarize the faith journey of your last 25 years? Did you have some missteps along the way? How did these missteps change you? Did you allow them to defeat you, or did you learn and grow from them?
- Even "after these things," God called Abraham and he responded, "Here I Am?" Is this your response to Him even after your missteps? How does verse 5 reveal Abraham's faith? If God was faithful to Abraham, can you trust Him to be faithful to you? As you look in the rearview mirror, do you just see the missteps, or do you see the faith that grew through the missteps?
- Who in your life has exemplified faith, and their faith has strengthened your faith? Is there someone in your life that may be looking to you as an example of faith? How can your faithfulness (even in times of misstep) encourage others?

2) The Second “Here I Am” Lesson: When I Make Everything I Have Available to God, He Makes Everything He has Available to Me

- Read Genesis 22:7-8. This is where God challenges what was in his hand.
- Isaac, God’s promised son, is asking Abraham where is the sacrifice? What was Abraham’s response to his son? Can you think of a similar situation in your life? A time when God asked you to give up something you held dear, or even knew He had at one time blessed you with? Did this cause you to hold on tighter, or challenge you to let go? Would you do anything differently now than you did then? How can you learn from this instance in your life?
- God provides for himself. It’s not what is in our hand, it’s what God puts in your hand.
- What’s in your hand now that you don’t want to let go of? Is there something that He is asking you to take to the mountain and lay down on the altar?

3) The Third “Here I Am” Lesson: God Doesn’t Want Your Treasure, He Wants Your Heart

- Read Genesis 22:9-12. This is where God challenges what was in his heart.
- Abraham found himself challenged to decide who was on the throne of his heart, God or Isaac? Was God truly unrivaled on the throne of his heart? What words did God speak to Abraham at that moment (verse 12)? Have you heard Him speak these words to you?
- There is a place where faith must be lived out in action—“Yes, God, Here I am.”
- Read Matthew 6:21. How do you see these words of Jesus in relation to this event in Abraham’s faith journey? How would you apply this to your personal faith journey?
- Read Genesis 22:14. What did Abraham name this place? When you act by faith in obedience to God, He will provide. What part of your life does this principle resonate with?

Application:

- **Key Takeaway: This faith journey is not about what God wants *from* us, but what God wants *for* us.**
- Where are you in your faith journey? How do you approach saying YES to God? From your head, from your hand, or from your heart?
- God wants to sit unrivaled on the throne of our heart. Will you say, “Yes, Lord, Here I Am?”
- When we say YES from our heart, even when all is still unknown, God will provide for Himself, because the journey is not about what God wants from us, but what He wants for us.