

Group/Individual Study

Series: "This is Us" - Abraham

Passages: Genesis 15:1-6, 22:1-14; Hebrews 11:17-19

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 7/2

1. Read Genesis 15:1-6. Abraham's whole life seemed to be a huge faith stretch. Describe the faith stretch in these verses in Genesis 15. If you know about the timing of when God fulfilled this promise, how did his faith get stretched again by this variable? How might any perceived threat to Isaac's life have rattled Abraham to the core?
2. Read Genesis 22:1-14 and Hebrews 11:17-19. God's command in verses 1-2 seems a contradiction of His earlier promise to Abraham about offspring. The command also seemed to go against everything Abraham had learned about God's character and goodness. What do you think was in Abraham's heart as he took steps to obey this command that he couldn't have possibly understood?
3. Have you ever faced a time when you couldn't square the circumstances in your life with the love and promises of God? How did you get through it? Did it strengthen your faith or weaken it? What other biblical figures besides Abraham got to points like that?
4. It's easy to trust God with things that don't really matter much to us anyway; but much harder to trust Him with what's most precious. Which parts of your life do you find most difficult to trust God with? Why? What have you found that helps you in this regard?
5. When you consider how God didn't make Abraham go through with this sacrifice which would have been crushing to him, what does it tell you about God's love that He didn't back down from making the same sacrifice for us?
6. Gary's primary exhortation in this message was to "loosen our grip" on things that aren't God. How can we love deeply but hold people and possessions in a way that doesn't make an idol out of them?