

La Novela de Dios

Episode 2: Faith is the Key



group discussion flow

connect with needs

- Find out how they are doing.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: "Sometimes it's hard to believe that something will work out if you can't see the ending."
- Then, surface experiences:
 - "Let me tell you how I have experienced this."
 - "Tell us how you have experienced this."
- Transition to the Bible by saying, "Today we're going to read about Abraham, a man who had faith in God, even when it was hard to understand how God would keep His promises."
- Illustration(s):

notes & preparation checklist

pray

- Pray for wisdom.
- Pray for group members.

connect

- Think of a good personal example to share.
- Decide when and how to

hear what God says

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.

Choices:

Genesis 15:1-6
Genesis 22:1-18
Romans 4:16-25

Two of these passages may be enough to cover in one session.

Commentary:

Genesis 15:1-6 — We saw how the story began in the Garden of Eden and how the first people chose not to walk with the Lord. Now, many years later, men are still running away from God. But God has a plan to rescue His people and bring them back to Himself. His plan begins with a family. He chooses a man named Abraham and tells Him to leave his home and go to another land, to become an immigrant. There, God tells Abraham that He will have many descendants and God promises this land to Abraham's family. At this time, Abraham is an old man, but he chooses to believe in God's promise. Because He had faith, God called him "righteous."

Genesis 22 — God asked Abraham to give up the thing he wanted the most, because God wanted to make sure that Abraham trusted Him completely. Because Abraham trusted that God would keep His promise, He was willing to do whatever God asked. In the end, God provided so that Abraham did not have to sacrifice his son.

Romans 4:18-25—Abraham is righteous, not because of his good works, but because of his faith in God.

notes & preparation checklist

Hear

Alternate questions to ask:

- **Genesis 15:1-6**
- 1. How do you think Abraham felt when God told him that He would be the father of nations?
- 2. Why did God consider Abraham righteous? What does this passage say about how he got this label?
- Genesis 22:1-18**
- 1. This was probably a difficult request for Abraham!

- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions below:

"What do you think this passage teaches us?"

"What can we learn about God or our response to God?"

How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "It's hard to believe that something will work out if you can't see the ending."

God promised Abraham something incredible. He said that He would make Abraham's name great and that he would have many descendants. He even said that the whole world would be blessed through Abraham's family. Even though it didn't make sense at the time, Abraham had faith in God.

And God kept His promise. Even in her old age, Abraham's wife, Sarah had a baby named Isaac. Isaac would become the "father" of Israel, God's people. And many years later, God's son would become one of Abraham's descendants. Just like Abraham was asked to sacrifice his son, God would send His own Son into the world as a part of this family, and Jesus would be sacrificed for the sins of the whole world. In this way, the whole world would be blessed through Abraham's family.

Abraham's name is great, because of his legacy of faith. Before he ever did any good work, he believed God, and that's why God called him righteous.

Why do you think he went through with it?
 2. In the end, God provided for Abraham. How is this story similar to what Jesus did for us on the cross? How is it different?

Romans 4:16-25

- 1. Based on this, what was Abraham's legacy? What does it mean for us to be Abraham's children in this way?

apply that to life

- State the main lesson: "Being a **"righteous person"** means **having faith in God.**" Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.
- Discuss:
 - Why is it sometimes difficult for us to believe God's promises? What part does faith play in accepting Christ's sacrifice for us?*
 - "What is one action you can take this week?"
- Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

notes & preparation checklist

apply

- Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- Print Mini Journal

tell someone they know

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

notes & preparation checklist

tell

- Commit to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Look for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their

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