

LIFE LESSONS – Making It Live

David Welsh | “The Call” | Genesis 12:1-5 | January 8 . 9. 2011

Faith

What does “faith in God” really mean to you? Hebrews 11:6 says, “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” Faith is essential to possessing a right relationship with God. Does faith mean more than trusting God for your salvation? James tells us that Abraham’s faith and actions were working together. Share how our actions demonstrate our faith. Are we to sit around and wait on God to do something in our lives or are we to step out in faith? What does it mean to “step out in faith?”

Trust, Risk, Obey

When is it most difficult for you to trust God? Is it when you are suffering with pain or loss? When things are going terribly wrong, is it still possible for you to trust that God is still in control? What are you risking in order to follow God? What did Abraham leave behind when he answered God’s call? Discuss whether you trust God enough to obey Him even when it means risking what is valuable to you?

God’s Will

Have you ever wondered what God’s will is for you? How does God’s call affect the individual who commits himself to Christ? Read Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 8:34-35, and 1 John 2:15-17. Discuss what these scriptures tell you about God’s will for your life. *Discuss:* God’s commands are not always accompanied by reasons but they are always accompanied by promises, either expressed or implied. Abraham obeyed, not because he could figure out the reasons for God’s command but because he believed God’s promises through faith. God may be calling you to a life of faith that separates you from what is evil and devotion to what is holy.

Word of God

Where is your faith based? Faith is not based on feeling, even though feelings are involved. Faith is based on the Word of God. How did Abraham know where to go and what to do? He called on the name of the Lord. He prayed to the Lord and the Lord helped him. *Discuss:* When God calls us to personal sacrifice, He compensates through great promises of blessing. God makes promises today – promises of His abiding presence, and the promise of His ability to use your life to bless and influence others.

Coming to Know Him

What do you believe is God’s ultimate purpose for us? God wants people to know Him. That’s why He chooses to work through us. *Discuss:* When the world sees things happening through God’s people that cannot be explained except that God Himself has done them, then the world will be drawn to the God they see. We, like Abraham, are called to be pilgrims on earth and to take possession of it – not with swords – but through the proclamation of God’s truth. Canaan was never the same after Abraham passed through. Can that be said of you? Jesus said, “When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself” Christ is lifted up in our lives.

Written by Sandy Hooper