

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**

Week of November 1

### **FAITH RISING**

**Hebrews 11:17–19**

#### **MAIN POINT**

Abraham's offering of Isaac reveals a faith that reasons from God's character, trusts His promises, and chooses the Giver over His gifts.

#### **KEY SENTENCE:**

Rising faith reasons from God's character and trusts Him even when circumstances contradict His promises.

**LOOK → UNDERSTAND → CONNECT → APPLY → PRAY**

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| <b>LOOK — What does God's Word say?</b> |
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**Read Hebrews 11:17–19 together.**

#### **1. What made God's command to Abraham such a difficult test of faith?**

*Leader follow-up:*

- What do we learn about Abraham's relationship with Isaac from Genesis 22:1–2?
- Why was Isaac especially significant in light of God's promises to Abraham?
- What might Abraham have struggled to understand about God's command?

#### **2. According to Hebrews 11:19, what did Abraham believe God was able to do?**

*Leader follow-up:*

- How did Abraham's belief in God's power shape his willingness to obey?
- What does the passage tell us about the relationship between Abraham's faith and his actions?
- What does it mean that Abraham received Isaac back "figuratively speaking" or "in a manner of speaking" (v.19)?

**Leader Note:** Emphasize that Abraham's faith did not mean he understood everything God was doing. He trusted that God could remain faithful to His promises even when he could not see how they would be fulfilled.

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| <b>UNDERSTAND — What does it mean?</b> |
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**3. Hebrews 11:19 says Abraham “reasoned” that God could raise Isaac from the dead. How did Abraham reason from God’s character and promises?**

*Leader follow-up:*

- What had God already promised concerning Isaac?
- Why could Abraham conclude that God’s command would not ultimately cancel His promise?
- How is this kind of faith different from simply hoping everything will work out?

**4. What does Abraham’s willingness to offer Isaac teach us about loving God more than His gifts?**

*Leader follow-up:*

- What good gifts had God given Abraham through Isaac?
- How can the blessings God gives us sometimes become more important to us than God Himself?
- What might it look like to treasure God even when we fear losing something precious?

**5. How does Abraham’s experience point forward to Jesus Christ?**

*Leader follow-up:*

- What similarities do you see between Isaac carrying the wood for the sacrifice and Jesus carrying the wood of His cross?
- What is the difference between what God stopped Abraham from doing and what God Himself did through Jesus?
- How does Jesus’ death and resurrection give us confidence in God’s faithfulness?

**Leader Note:** Keep Christ at the center of this question. Abraham’s experience points forward to the Father giving His beloved Son and to Jesus, the true Lamb, bearing our sins and being raised from the dead.

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| <b>CONNECT — How does it apply to us?</b> |
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**6. Have you ever experienced a situation in which God's promises seemed to conflict with what you were experiencing?**

*Leader follow-up:*

- What made it difficult to trust God in that situation?
- Were you tempted to conclude that God had forgotten you or would not keep His word?
- What helped you continue trusting Him, or what do you wish you had remembered?

**7. Read Job 1:21 and Job 13:15. What do these passages teach us about trusting God when we face loss or suffering?**

*Leader follow-up:*

- What is the difference between trusting God because of what He gives us and trusting Him because of who He is?
- Why can suffering expose what we are relying on for security?
- How can we trust God without pretending that grief, fear, or disappointment are not real?

**8. Why do you think God sometimes tests or refines our faith? Read 1 Peter 1:7.**

*Leader follow-up:*

- What can difficult circumstances reveal about what we truly believe?
- How might a trial strengthen our confidence in God's character?

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| <b>APPLY — What will we do with it?</b> |
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**9. What good gift, relationship, ambition, or source of security might be competing with God for first place in your heart?**

*Leader follow-up:*

- Why is this thing so important to you?
- How might you be tempted to trust it more than God?
- What would it look like to receive this gift with gratitude while holding it with open hands?

**10. When circumstances seem to contradict God's promises, what truths about His character can help you keep trusting Him?**

*Leader follow-up:*

- Which biblical promise or truth do you most need to remember right now?
- How have you seen God's faithfulness in the past?
- What practical step of obedience can you take even while you are uncertain about the outcome?

**11. How can we encourage someone whose faith is being tested by suffering, uncertainty, or the fear of losing something precious?**

*Leader follow-up:*

- What could we say or do that would point them toward God's character rather than offer easy answers?
- How can we acknowledge their pain while helping them hold on to God's promises?
- Is there someone you know who needs this kind of encouragement this week?

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| <b>PRAY — How should we pray about it?</b> |
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**Share briefly:**

- Where are you finding it difficult to trust God's promises?
- Is there a gift or source of security you need to hold more loosely?
- How does Jesus' death and resurrection strengthen your confidence in God?

**Pray for one another:**

Ask God to deepen your trust in His character, strengthen your faith during trials, and help you love Him above all His gifts. Pray for courage to obey even when you cannot see how things will work out. Thank God for providing Jesus, the true Lamb, and for demonstrating His faithfulness through Christ's death and resurrection.

Pray also for other requests, needs, and praises mentioned by group members.