



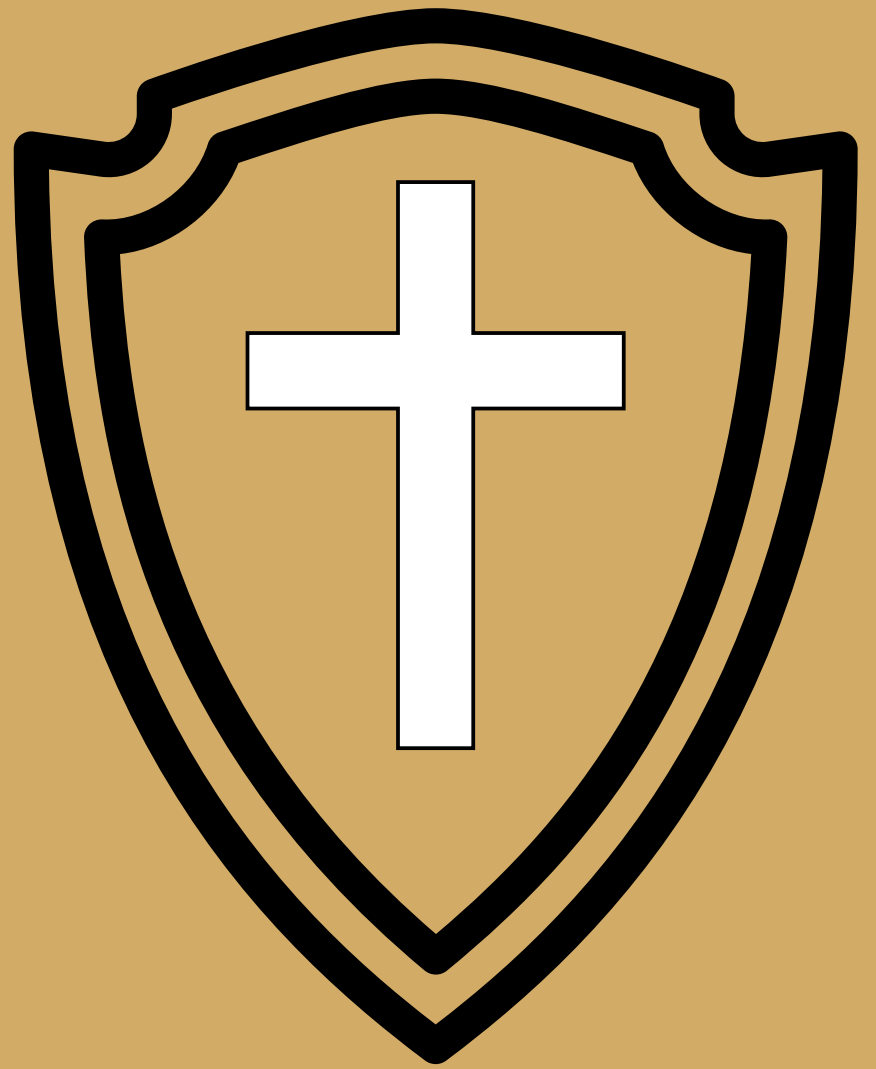
**ARMOR
OF GOD
LIFE GROUP
STUDY**

**SHIELD OF FAITH
WEEK 5 - 5/14/23**

WELCOME

When we get in our car, we put on our seatbelts. When we get on a bike, we wear a helmet. We wash our hands before we eat. Why? We do these things because we understand that riding in a car, getting on a bike, and even eating food can be hazardous to our health! So why would we go into a world that hates us (John 17:14) where we're going to wrestle with rulers, authorities, cosmic powers, and spiritual forces of evil (Ephesians 6:12) without wearing protective gear?

In the next seven weeks, we're going to put on the armor of God. We will put it on ourselves and help others put it on as well. The LORD is sending us to battle. We must be ready and we will be!



BEFORE THE SQUAD MEETS

1. If you're bringing a new person to the study, we recommend getting them study materials ahead of time so they can feel prepared.
2. Pray that the LORD will open your eyes and heart to receive the lessons he has to teach you in the study.
3. Read the scripture focus for the study.
4. Go through the questions and think about how you might answer them. We've provided space in the study for you to write down your answers if you'd like.



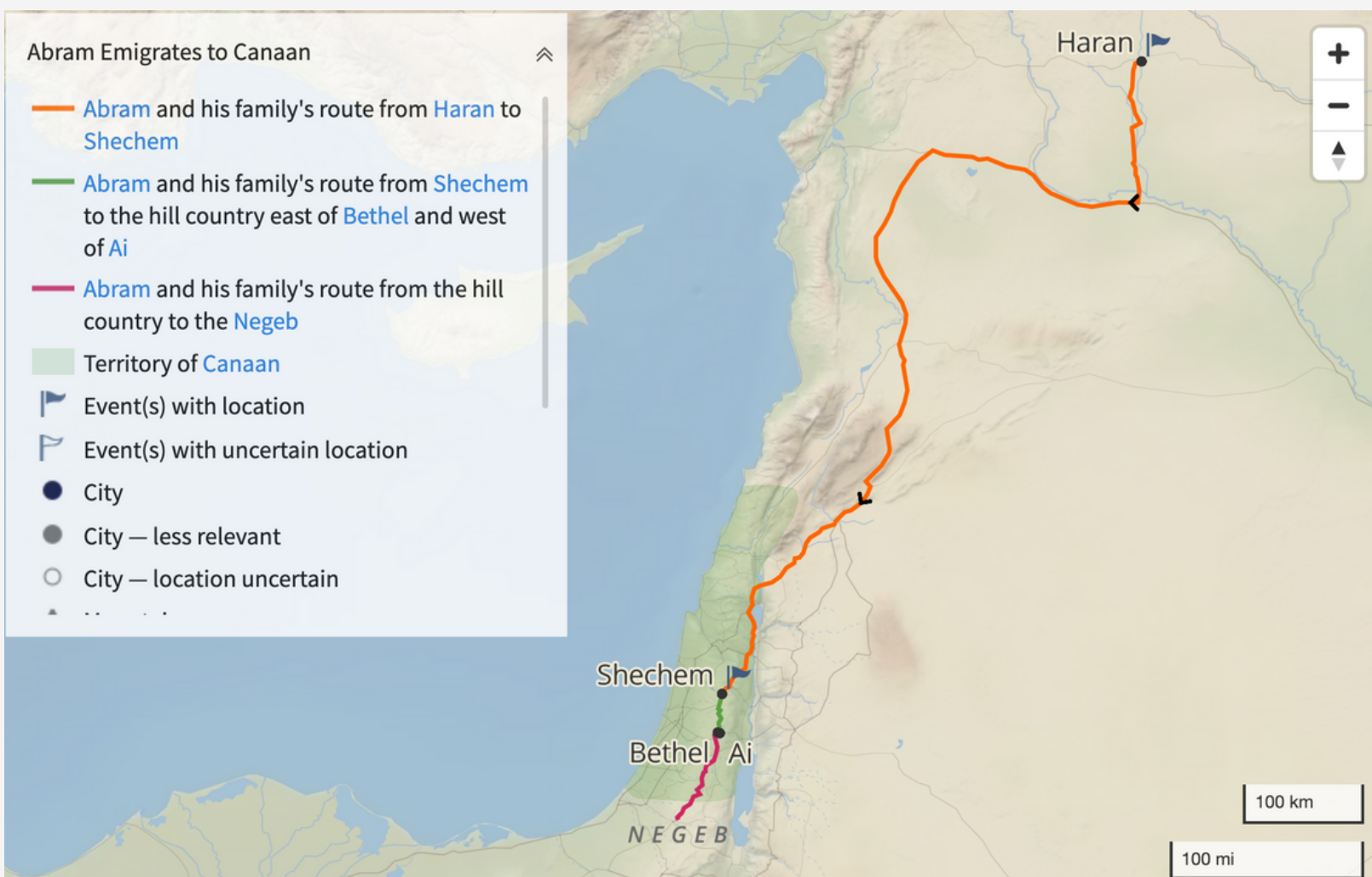
INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

Faith gets a bad rap. Christians are often accused of having “blind faith” - meaning that when we step forward in faith, we are doing so without reason or evidence. Yet, our faith is not blind. We have reasonable faith. When we get to know people, we discover their attributes. If a person repeatedly tells us the truth and displays integrity in their interactions with us and others, we reasonably assume that when they tell us they’re going to do something, they will in fact do it. Likewise, our God has shown us repeatedly that He keeps His word. Our text examines the men and women who believed God’s promises. They had faith that God was in fact who He said He was which means He will do what He says he will do.

HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT

Imagine growing up in a first-century devout Jewish home that followed God’s law to the best of their ability. The most central part of Jewish worship was at the temple, where priests presented sacrifices to God to cover the people’s sins. In the temple, the priests entered into the very presence of God. Now, as a Jewish Christian, you hear temple worship is obsolete - that Jesus is the perfect sacrificial lamb who takes away the sins of the world, and that you, as an individual believer, enter into God’s presence whenever you worship with the church. What’s a devout Jew to do? Follow the ceremonial law of Moses with its temple sacrifices, or trust in the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross? The writer of the book of Hebrews wrote the instruction manual for Jews who needed to know that it was their faith and trust in God that saves them, not religious rites.

BATTLEFIELD MAP



BASIC BIBLE

TRAINING

What is the LORD revealing to us in his Word? What does the church believe?



OUR TRAINING

How does God's Word apply to my life? What is God calling me to do? How is God comforting me in this text?

I. Read Hebrews 11:1-13. What is faith?

II. Hebrews 11:2 reads, "For by it (faith) the people of old received their commendation." (ESV) Who are the people of old? What is their commendation?

III. Why is faith necessary to please God?

IV. Did those "people of old" see the fulfillment of the promises they in which they believed?

I. What things, besides the existence of God and your salvation, do you take on faith? Why do you have faith in those things?

II. James 2:17 says, "So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." Does that mean we're saved by faith PLUS works? Explain.

FAMILY TRAINING

How does this scripture apply to my family life as a husband, wife, father, mother, or child?

I. Christian parents want their kids to know Jesus. What opportunities do parents have to instill faith in their children?

II. Suppose a new Christian tells you they're struggling to teach their children about Jesus because they simply don't know much about Christianity. What advice would you give them?

MEETING THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

What does this text tell me about proper worship? How can this text help me encounter the living God?

I. The Reformation declared "sola fide" - that we are saved through faith alone. Faith in what?

II. Some churches teach that all people need to do to get better health and more wealth is to speak their desires in faith, trusting in the promises of God. God is compelled to keep his promises, and they proclaim to truly have faith in those promises. For example, Isaiah 53:5 promises us that "...by his wounds, we are healed." Is there anything wrong with this teaching? If so, what?

COMBAT - CONQUERING THE ENEMY

What does the text show me about my role in building God's kingdom? How can God work through me to bring others to Christ?

I. What does our faith shield us from as we share the gospel?

II. As a group, give three reasons people don't share their faith with others. What can they do to overcome their fear? (HINT: It might have something to do with faith)

NOTES