

Faith Required!

Each one of you also must **love his wife** as he loves himself, and the wife must **respect her husband**.

- *Ephesians 5:33 (NIV)*

The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into **a great nation** and I will **bless you**; I will make **your name great**, and you will be **a blessing**.” - *Genesis 12:1-2 (NIV)*

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he **did not know where he was going**. - *Hebrews 11:8 (NIV)*

WHEN LIFE DOESN'T GO AS PLANNED...

1. We Fall Victim To _____.

As [Abram] was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, “I know what a beautiful woman you are. When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me but will let you live. **Say you are my sister**, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you.”

- *Genesis 12:11-13 (NIV)*

2. We Get _____ Of God.

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar; so she said to Abram, “The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps **I can build a family through her**.” - *Genesis 16:1-2 (NIV)*

3. We Don't Believe God Will Do It For _____.

Abraham fell facedown; **he laughed** and said to himself, “Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?” - *Genesis 17:17 (NIV)*

So Sarah **laughed to herself** as she thought, “After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?” Then the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything **too hard for the LORD?**” - *Genesis 18:12-14 (NIV)*

Without **weakening in his faith**, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he **did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God**, but was **strengthened in his faith** and gave glory to God, being **fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised**. - *Romans 4:19-21 (NIV)*

FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Share your earliest dreams about marriage. How is your life different from how you thought it would be?
- Discuss how each of the faithless seasons has played out in your life. Which one do you identify with the most?
- Even with faithless seasons, Abraham and Sarah are icons of faith. How will you live from now on so your life (and marriage) will be characterized by faith?
- What did God speak to you in this message? Share it with your group.
- How can you begin to pray this week to allow God to grow your faith? Pray for one another. If you're married, hold the hand of your spouse and pray together: “Help us make you our ONE.”