

# Trust - How Trust is Built

Nick - July 15

**Series Big Idea:** Trust is the only way to please God. To say to God “I trust you” and really mean it is a great gift to God. There is no better way to worship him. There is no better way to say “I love you.” Trust is the only way we can learn to become selfless and move beyond self-pity. Trust is the only way to eliminate fear and anxiety. In this series we’ll explore what it means to selflessly trust God. We’ll explore what trust means, the benefits of trust and how we can actually stay on this journey of trust through all the things that attempt to crush trust.

**Message Big Idea:** Trusting God doesn’t just happen overnight. It takes a resume of trust to be developed over life experiences. God built his “trust resume” with Abraham over many years and in different circumstances. Abraham had such incredible trust in God that the Bible says he’s the premier example. How do we go about building trust? We lean into the hard times, realizing that we don’t journey alone.

**Main Idea:** We never climb the mountain of trust alone. God is always with us.

**Main Text:** Genesis 22

## Reflection/Discussion Questions:

1. From June 2017 - June 2018 we had 326 people accept Christ and be baptized. Before we go into our discussion today, take a moment together and pray for these individuals. Thank God for their decision and pray that they may grow in Jesus through our community here at Pantano.
2. Share a time when you needed to have a huge amount of trust in someone or a situation. How did that situation go?
3. Trust in God and people is built best by relationship. We read in Genesis that Abraham had a lot of different opportunities to learn to trust God. Read Genesis 12:1-3. What would it take for you to have that type of trust in God?
4. The center story of this message is when God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, his promised son. Pastor Nick talked about how Abraham climbed the mountain of trust even though it didn’t make sense. What is a mountain of trust that you currently face in your life? How can the group stand beside you and pray for you?
5. The journey to the top of our mountain can be daunting. But, it’s important to remember that we never climb the mountain of trust alone. God is always with us. If you have the ability to play a song, Play “Do it again” by Elevation worship. Listen to the lyrics and sing/meditate on them together. End your group time today with prayer about your journey up the mountain.

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## Message:

Good morning, my name is Nick and I'm one of the teaching pastors here at Pantano. If you're just joining us, we're in our third week of our teaching on Trust. Scripture tells us that Trust is really the only way to please God. We place our trust in him, in who he says he is, and what he's done and will do in our lives. At the center of our trust, is our belief in Jesus. But trust is easy to talk about, hard to practice. Last week we had 25 people step forward to be baptized and place their trust in Jesus. From June 2017-June 2018, we had **326** people be baptized!

Trusting Jesus can be a scary thought and many have said that they waited a long time to accept Jesus because they weren't sure. What if we're wrong? What if God doesn't come through? While these are normal questions to ask, the answers to these questions and the key to us unlocking trust is by living life with God alongside of you. It's in these moments that we build what I like to call a "**trust resume**" with God. It's a list of experiences where we've decided to place our trust in Jesus and he's come through. Now, it might not be how we wanted, but I believe it's always for our best. We grow our trust resume the more we trust. The longer the resume, the easier it becomes to trust God.

## [TRUST FALL]- 4 Volunteers

Now, why didn't I just jump off the front of the stage? It's because we don't just give trust away. It comes with relationship and relationships come with time. If our relationship with God isn't that great, then we're going to have a harder time trusting him. We've got to get to know God and build that resume of trust.

Unfortunately, life isn't just a series of trust falls. No, life can be much harder and more difficult than we could ever imagine. It's in these moments that our relationship with God has the most potential to grow. I wish I could stand up here and say, everyone's trust in God will just naturally become stronger, but that isn't the case. Trust comes from experience and often times from hardest experiences.

The New Testament tells us that Abraham is the premiere example of having trust in God. But how did he get there?

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When we first meet Abraham, his name hadn't been changed by God yet. He went by Abram and his wife went by the name Sarai. Acts 7 tells us that God called Abram for the first time to leave everything they knew (family, friends, everything). But instead of doing everything God said, Abram took his family and they didn't complete their journey. They only got to a place called Harran which is about half way. Sometimes when we hear God's call, we don't get all the way there the first time either. Sometimes God has to tell us twice.

So the second time God calls Abram is in Genesis chapter 12. Why did God call him a second time? He's not giving up on Abram and just like him, God doesn't give up on us when we mess it up the first time. Let's read about this repeat call in Genesis 12 (pg 8):

“The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

<sup>2</sup>“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.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.”<sup>[b]</sup>

So the second call of God did the trick. He finally listened and he picked up everything and left his country, his people, his father's household. He doesn't even know where he's going yet. But he leaves. We then go on to read a lot about Abram's life. This is a huge story in the Bible that goes on for many chapters. I encourage you to read the rest of his story, but to give a brief overview, we see that God changed his name from Abram to Abraham. His wife, got a new name too. She's called Sarah. Abraham went to battle many times and was significantly outnumbered but with God at his side and emerged victorious. That is a part of Abraham's trust resume with God. We also read that Sarah, Abraham's wife couldn't have kids. Then God spoke to them and promised they would have a child at the ripe ole age of 75. After that promise, it took 25 years until the son God promised was born. So Abraham is now 100 years old.

I mean, can you imagine wanting a child your entire life but you can't because you're barren. You're now 75 years old. God says to you, “you're going to have a child.” You don't believe him, but you get a little excited. Then you wait 25 years. 25 years! That's a lot of time to question if you misheard him speak and in this. It sounds like a mountain to

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overcome. The promise of God could be far off, it's at the top of the mountain. I bet Abraham thought God's promise would happen pretty quick. But it didn't. The journey to the top of his mountain of trust took 25 years. It's in this that we find my main point for today.

- **We never climb the mountain of trust alone. God is always with us.**

To recap: Abraham got two calls from God. Set out on the journey, didn't make it all the way the first time. Got called again by God. Set out again. Fought in all sorts of battles and had all sorts of experiences. God was with him in all of those moments. Then God promised them a child, but it took 25 years to be answered. Now after all of this time and all of these trust building opportunities, we find Abraham in Genesis 22. Turn there with me. Pg 14.

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied. (Genesis 22:1, "Abraham! Here I am." Abraham knew God's voice. He had already had a relationship with him remember that Resume of Trust? The battles, the calls of God, time and time again he had talked to God or his angels. So when God speaks to him, Abraham responds.)

<sup>2</sup> Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."<sup>3</sup> Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. (How could he have processed this so quickly? The next morning he got ready to leave. Let's think about this for a second. Remember the 25 years of waiting. Now you have a son, you're over a 100 years old. You've been living life with this boy for years now and God tells you to kill and burn him as a sacrifice to him. How can Abraham just up and accept it? I think this is another sign of Abraham's relationship with God. He knew God. He had a history with God. Now, even though it didn't make sense, he was choosing to trust God. )

So Abraham loads up Isaac and gets ready to leave. He's probably thinking to himself, "Surely God has another plan here. Something will happen." It would have been easy to just have run away. It would have been normal to just ignore the voice and carry on with his life. But Abraham didn't. He listened and now Abraham is climbing a mountain that God's called him to.

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This didn't make sense to Abraham, but because he'd trusted God so many times before, he was ready to trust him now. Whatever you're going through in these moments, know that you're not alone. God is in the process of building your trust! You're going to feel the temptation to run away. To ignore God. To get angry that God hasn't removed your barrier. But just because it doesn't make sense to you doesn't mean that God isn't present in that situation and working. But we can't leave this important truth out though, if God is like a stranger to you, it's going to be hard to trust him at all. Spend time with God. Get to know God. Trust grows in relationship. It's never too late to begin.

I want to keep reading in this story, because it's here that we see that trust resume come into play.

<sup>6</sup> Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, <sup>7</sup> Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

<sup>8</sup> Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

Did you catch that in verse 8? Abraham says, "God himself will provide the sacrifice." In other words, God's going to provide a way. Now, we don't know if Abraham said this with full confidence or if he was speaking truth to encourage himself for what was coming, but he said it. It's recorded for us today. Sometimes we just need to remind ourselves that Jesus is faithful in the midst of our storms and remember that he doesn't leave us. Hebrews 11 even tells us that Abraham was even thinking that if he did have to sacrifice Isaac, God could raise him from the dead. He didn't know what would happen but he trusted. But the story isn't over here. Let's keep going.

<sup>9</sup> When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

<sup>12</sup> "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

<sup>13</sup> Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram<sup>[a]</sup> caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.

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Imagine the tension here. Imagine the release when the angel called out with word from God.

Now as we sit here today and read this, it might seem unnecessary. Why was God putting Abraham through all of this?

First we have to realize. God isn't calling us to sacrifice our kids. This was a special test meant just for Abraham. God wanted to build a nation through him and he needed to know that Abraham was growing to trust him.

God isn't calling us to sacrifice our own Isaac's but he is calling us to trust him. Trust him with our job hunt. Trust him with the situation at work that isn't fair. He's calling us to trust him when the relationship is tough. He's calling us to trust him when we have to say goodbye to unhealthy people in our lives. But the most important thing he's calling us to trust him with is Jesus.

God has paved the way for us to be saved from our sin. But we need to place our trust that Jesus is who he says he is. He's God's son, sent for us.

These are all mountains before us. Like Abraham, God is calling us to climb up these mountains of trust. But in our steps, we can't forget:

- **We never climb the mountain of trust alone. God is always with us.**

God is calling all of us to climb a mountain.  
He asks me to trust him each step of the way.  
He asks you to trust him every step of the way.  
He never leaves us.

So how is trust built with God? By doing life, or journeying with God. Experiences, or mountains will come and they may not make sense. But we have to climb them in order to build trust. Your mountain may take longer to climb than you thought it would (it may take 25 years, but I hope it doesn't), but believe me, God is not only at the summit of that mountain, but he's walking alongside you on the journey.

God could snap his finger and make it all work out. He could spare us the journey, but the journey is important. It's in the journey that our trust resume is built with Jesus.

For me, I'm heading into a new trust journey. My trek is a new health scare.

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Several of you might have seen a video I posted a couple weeks ago. In it, I shared that one of my heart valves has virtually no function at all. On August 10th, I'll check into the hospital and will have this valve replaced for the 3rd time. But here's the deal, God's already been on the other side of that surgery and he knows exactly what will happen. He's called those nurses and doctors to be in that room for that surgery. Is it scary? Heck yes it is. But I trust that God is already at the top of my mountain waiting for me and I know that he's standing here with me right now, taking each step until that moment with me. So whatever happens, be it a boring surgery that changes my life, or I meet Jesus in person that day, God is right beside me the entire time.

How can I say this? Is it because I'm a pastor? No. Being a pastor doesn't shelter me from fear and hard circumstances. How can I trust God? It's because God has proven time and time again how trustworthy he is. Has everything always worked out the way I wanted? No, but God is still faithful.

So what's your story today? Where is your mountain? What is the next step that you need to take to head on up that mountain of trust? What do you need to stop running away so that God can use the circumstance to build your trust?

Today, I want each of us to take that next step up the mountain. For some, that's to come down front and pray with one of our prayer partners. For others, it's to meet us in Starting Point through those doors. It's got a giant number 1 on it. Still others, it's to get up, go to work tomorrow, and face that situation you've been avoiding. Whatever it is, each of us have a mountain to climb. This I know for sure:

God didn't leave Abraham behind. He didn't him up that mountain alone. To close today, we're going to sing a song to God. I want us to use this as a prayer to him. It's our commitment to trust in who he is. I love these lyrics:

Your promise still stands  
Great is Your faithfulness.  
I'm still in Your hands  
This is my confidence, You've never failed me yet  
I know the night won't last  
Your Word will come to pass  
My heart will sing Your praise again  
Jesus, You're still enough  
Keep me within Your love  
My heart will sing Your praise again

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Let me pray for boldness for the journey and then stay so we can sing together.