

Unhindered

Week 6 - Chris Shoemaker

“Unhindered Father”

Icebreaker: Who had the most influence on you growing up?

What to Expect:

- Today we are going to learn about Abraham and how he set an example for us. Not one of perfection, but one of faith in the face of failing; obedience in the face of difficulty; trust in the face of hardship. Abraham, a great example for more than just fathers!

Texts for Discussion:

- Read **Genesis 13**
 - This is a bit of backstory for how Lot wound up in Sodom and, more importantly, the promise that God made to Abram.
 - What do you think of the promise that God made to Abram?
- Read **Genesis 15**
 - The promise mentioned in **chapter 13** is solidified as a covenant (or permanent promise) between Abram and God.
 - What made Abram righteous? Why?
 - What do you think the sacrificed animals signify?
- Read **Genesis 16**
 - Sarai has Abram sleep with her servant, Hagar who bears a son, named Ishmael.
 - This is a mess up on Abram’s (and Sarai’s) part. Why?
 - Ishmael’s descendants go on to be a nation against Isaac’s (haven’t met him yet) descendants. Ishmael is a forefather of Muhammed (Islam).

Going Further:

- You are encouraged to read **Genesis 17-22**, to learn more about Abram (soon to be Abraham) and the mistakes he makes while moving toward God’s promise. In the end, God asks him to sacrifice the very thing God had promised to give him. This was a test for Abraham to see if he had learned the most important lesson: trust God.
 - It is Abraham’s faith that set him apart in history, more so than any other trait.

Going Deeper:

- We all make mistakes. It’s easy to dwell on them, to believe the lies of the enemy that God can’t use us because we are **too** broken, or **too** imperfect. We can also fall into the trap of thinking that we deserve the promises of God in our own timing, instead of waiting patiently for Him to move. The truth is our brokenness is exactly where God finds the most use for us: when we are at our lowest, understanding that we can’t do it on our

own, **trusting** God—that is when we can often see the greatest movements of God in our lives.

- Have you ever experienced God moving in your life? What preceded His actions? Please share with the group, as your story is likely to be an encouragement for someone in desperate need!

Prayer: Collect prayer requests from the group and pray out loud for each of them.