

GO

Every lesson has a point—what each participant should walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and doing.

Main Idea: We can trust God to lead us in all circumstances.

Head Change: To know we do not have to understand everything to follow God.

Heart Change: To feel motivated to grow spiritually as we learn to trust God.

Life Change: To go beyond our comfort zone to follow God's calling.

OPEN

When has someone gone out of their way to surprise you? How did you respond to their surprise?

Nobody would be upset about a good surprise. If your spouse or parent or friend said they were taking you somewhere exciting as a surprise, you would likely trust them. Unfortunately, many of us don't trust that God is leading our lives, and we are prone to fear where he is taking us. God has a good plan to lead us to new and often exciting places, but we must learn to trust him.

In this lesson, Pastor Watson will explore the insecurities we can face when God leads us to new places in our faith journey.

VIEW

Before viewing the lesson, here are a few important things to look for in Pastor Watson's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how he answers the following questions.

What are some of the excuses we make for not listening to God's call on our lives?

How can your comfort zone keep you from following God?

Why is faith in God important when you don't know your final destination?

REVIEW

Pastor Watson began the lesson by highlighting the story of Abraham from Genesis 12. Read Genesis 12:1–9.

God called Abram (Abraham) to go to a new land without telling him many details about where he was supposed to go. **In what ways can you relate to having to trust someone else's directions? How did you handle that experience? How did the character of the person giving you directions affect your trust in their help?**

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Pastor Watson used Abraham's story throughout this lesson to illustrate several points about following God. Abraham is an example of how we must go where God tells us to experience the life he has planned for us. **Why do you think Abraham's decision to leave his home country was difficult? How did it impact his entire family?**

What can we learn from Abraham's experience about the importance of obedience?

Abraham left everything he knew to go to a foreign land and follow God even though he had already settled down and likely never imagined leaving his home. But God wanted Abraham to get out of his comfort zone.

What is a comfort zone? Why do you think our comfort zones can interfere with our obedience to God?

When have you gone out of your comfort zone? How did you feel in that situation?

There is always room for us to grow, and sometimes God calls us to go a new way that we don't expect. **What is an example in your life where you followed God's lead to a different path than you expected?**

In Hebrews, Pastor Watson noticed that the great list of people all had one thing in common—they all obeyed God by faith. **In what ways have you seen the connection between faith and obedience in your walk with God?**

Pastor Watson told a story about trying to surprise his kids. He asked them to trust him even though he didn't tell them where they were going. Once they arrived at their destination, the kids were excited to find out their dad brought them to an amusement park. **In what ways does Pastor Watson's story about his kids relate to trusting God and his plans?**

What are some reasons we sometimes doubt God is taking us in the right direction?

What doubts have you struggled with? What did it look like to fight those doubts?

What steps can you take toward stepping out of your comfort zone and trusting God's leadership?

BIBLE EXPLORATION

In this lesson, we thought through the difficulties that come with trusting God's direction for our life. The command to go where God is calling us is simple to understand but often hard to apply. But we are not alone: Many believers have had to face the same challenges we do, and we can look to them as examples. Let's take a deeper look at a few of the people Pastor Watson mentioned who had the faith to follow God into uncertainty.

Read Hebrews 11:7–19.

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This passage mentions three figures—Noah, Sarah, and Abraham—who chose to follow God by faith rather than disobey God’s commands. **Why is it important for us to remember the stories of God’s people who have walked in faith?**

What stands out to you about the faith of Noah, Sarah, and Abraham?

Which biblical figure’s story mentioned in verses 7–19 resonates the most with you? Why?

The author of Hebrews makes the point in verses 13–16 that those who walked by faith in the past did not receive the full reward of what God promised them. **What do you think it means in verse 13 that the faith figures of the past saw God’s promises from a distance?**

What promises of God do we know about that Noah, Sarah, and Abraham didn’t? What promises are still off in the distance?

Abraham could not have foreseen the great family God would create from Abraham’s offspring—the church. In many ways, we are proof of God’s fulfilled promises, but we also await Jesus’s return and eternal kingdom. **In what ways do the verses about the city God has prepared for his followers encourage you?**

In verses 17–18, the writer of Hebrews highlights another time in Abraham’s life where he trusted God by faith. Abraham believed in God’s promise to the point where he was willing to put the life of his son Isaac at risk. Abraham’s trust in God was strong enough to believe that God would resurrect Isaac from the dead. **In what ways does Abraham demonstrate trusting God instead of remaining in his comfort zone?**

Although we may never face a dilemma as Abraham did in Genesis 22, we will face times in our lives where God pushes us beyond our comfort zone. But like Pastor Watson said in the lesson, “The Father is worthy of your faith. The Father is worthy of your confidence. The Father is worthy of your trust.” **When has your trust in God’s plan for your life wavered? How did you handle that experience?**

How can you fight the temptation to doubt the direction God is leading you?

Confidence in God is essential to walking by faith. In Philippians, we see that confidence at work in Paul.

Read Philippians 1:6.

In whom does Paul place his confidence? What does he trust God to do?

In this verse, Paul’s words affirm that God plans to complete the work he started in us no matter what challenges we face. We are all at various points in our walk with God, but this verse encourages us that we all will one day experience the fullness of God’s finished work in us. **Based on Philippians 1:6 and other passages we’ve studied, what makes God more trustworthy than anybody else?**

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What are some practices or spiritual disciplines that have helped grow your confidence in God?

In what ways are you struggling to trust God right now? What can you do to remind yourself of God's trustworthiness this week?

LAST WORD

If we are going to follow God like Abraham, we must remember our confidence should be rooted in Christ and not ourselves or others. God's Word can be challenging to live out when we doubt God, but when our confidence is in Christ, we can walk in faith and know that God is with us.

God has not given us a spirit of fear, which means we can be confident that walking by faith will always lead us in the right direction. Let's trust him with our lives this week and follow his lead.

DEEPER WALK

Read: Reflect on what it means to follow God by faith, even when it seems too hard, by reading Hebrews 11 and Judges 7. Remember the character of God and that he is trustworthy by reading 2 Timothy 2:13 and Psalm 33:4.

Pray: Pray that you grow in trusting God's guidance and believing he always has your best interest in mind. Ask God to show any areas of your life where you are afraid to take the next step your faith journey. Pray for confidence in God's Word and the strength to step out of your comfort zone.

Go: Take a step of faith and trust God to start something new. Go where God is calling you to go without fear. Ask someone from your community to hold you accountable to taking the next step on your spiritual journey.