

# UnCOVERED

TEACHER'S HANDBOOK



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- A BIBLE STUDY COURSE -

Handbook Version 1.1

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*All Scriptures are New King James Version.*

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## LESSON 4

# THE FATHERS OF THE FAITH

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OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES OF FAITH

NOAH

ABRAHAM

JACOB

JOSEPH

## CHART 1 - OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES OF FAITH

In studying the Word of God, we learn that in order to please God and receive salvation for our souls, we must live a life of faith.

» READ: Hebrews 11:6

What is faith? Faith is living proof of the power of God working in a person's life.

» READ: Hebrews 11:1

Faith is evidence. Faith brings about a substance of action and obedience to God. Throughout the Bible there are many examples of men and women who had faith. How do we know that? Their lives demonstrated their faith.

### EXAMPLE:

- » Hebrews 11:7 "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household..."
- » Hebrews 11:8 "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going."

As believers in the New Testament Church Age, we are to follow the examples of these men by also living a life of faith. As we examine the lives of some faithful Old Testament patriarchs, let's keep in mind two important points about faith:

### 1. Faith Always Brings About ACTION

- » James 2:26 "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

### 2. Faith Guides Us To SALVATION

- » Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith..."

### CHART 2 - NOAH

In Genesis chapter 6, we learn about a man who was spared from a world-wide flood which God forced upon the earth. This man's name was Noah. According to Genesis 6:9, Noah was a just man who walked with God during a time of great wickedness upon the face of the earth.

As God was preparing to eliminate the evil that plagued the earth, He saw Noah's heart and provided Noah with a plan to be saved from the coming destruction.

» **READ: Genesis 6:5-22**

After God gives Noah the instructions on how to build the ark and be saved from the flood, Noah demonstrates his faith by obeying God.

We do not know precisely how long it took Noah to build the ark (scholars believe approximately 100 years), but we do know that there was plenty of time for others to be warned of the coming flood.

However, even with this time of warning, Noah, his wife, their three sons and three daughters-in-law were the only humans saved.

Shortly after Noah and his family entered the ark, God shut the door of the ark and began to flood the earth. Rain poured down continuously for 40 days and 40 nights. Noah and his family were saved because of their faith and obedience.

**SIDE NOTE:** *Immediately after the ark settled on dry land, Noah sent up an offering to the Lord to thank Him for His grace. This pleased the Lord so much that He vowed to never again destroy the whole earth by flooding it. To solidify His new covenant, God placed a sign in the sky for all to see: the first rainbow. The rainbow is a reminder to God and humanity that the earth will never again be completely destroyed by flood waters.*

## CHART 2 - NOAH (CONTINUED)

Although the story of Noah is an ancient story, the lesson of salvation through faith still applies today. Take a look at the parallels of the pattern of salvation in Noah's story with the pattern of salvation for today:

There is SIN

- » Genesis 6:5 "the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great..."
- » Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned..."

Sin brings DEATH

- » Genesis 6:7 "So the Lord said, 'I will destroy man...'"
- » Romans 6:23 "The wages of sin is death..."

God brings His GRACE

- » Genesis 6:8 "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."
- » Romans 5:8 "...while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Grace brings a PLAN of salvation

- » Genesis 6:14-16 "Make yourself an ark of gopherwood.....and this is how you shall make it..."
- » Acts 2:38 "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

The plan must be OBEYED (Faith)

- » Genesis 6:22 "Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him..."
- » Hebrews 5:9 "...He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him."

Obedience allows God to SAVE us

- » Genesis 7:16 "So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in."
- » 2 Timothy 1:9 "...who saved us...not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace..."

### CHART 3 - ABRAHAM

Many generations after Noah and the flood, the earth was once again well-populated. Just as in Noah's time, finding faithful men and women was no easy task.

However, in the midst of all the world's activity, God found a man who was willing to follow Him and live by faith. Although Abraham was 75 years old when God spoke to him and called him to a life of faith, age didn't stop him.

» **READ: Genesis 12:1-4**

Upon God's calling him, Abraham allowed God to lead him to a new homeland, a 'promised land'. Abraham had no idea where he was going, but he trusted God and God gave him favor for his obedience. As Abraham journeyed on his life of faith, God often reminded him of the blessings that would come as a result of his trust in God.

» **READ: Genesis 15:5-7**

After following God for many years, Abraham was faced with the most trying moment of his life. Abraham had a son named Isaac whom he loved very much. To make sure Abraham still trusted and loved God more than anything or anyone, God tested Abraham's faith.

We're told in Genesis 22 that Abraham was commanded to sacrifice his son to God. As odd and deranged as this might have sounded, Abraham trusted God and knew that God would never allow him to actually execute his own son. Abraham went to obey God's command and just as he was about to satisfy the request, God stopped him.

» Genesis 22:12 "And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God....."

This event obviously takes faithfulness to a whole new level and places Abraham at the pinnacle of examples of people who have faith in God.



## **CHART 4 - JACOB**

Abraham's son Isaac would eventually grow up and get married. He and his wife Rebekah would have twin sons named Esau and Jacob. Although Jacob and Esau were twins, they possessed completely different perspectives and personalities.

From the very beginning of his life, Jacob had a hunger for God while Esau was more concerned with temporal things. At one point, when Esau was hungry after hunting all day, Jacob talked Esau into trading him his God-given birthright for a bowl of stew.

**SIDE NOTE:** *The birthright, according to the Old Testament patriarchal system, was extremely important. It signified both the size of the inheritance and the spiritual blessing the firstborn son would receive. Typically, if a man had two sons, his inheritance would be divided into three parts. The eldest son would receive two portions (a double portion) and the younger son would receive one. In this case, Esau came out first and was older, but chose to trade his double portion along with God's blessing for temporary satisfaction.*

Jacob would eventually also talk his father into praying Esau's birthright blessing upon Jacob. He did this by dressing up like and pretending to be Esau. Although Jacob was deceptive, his intentions were always to receive the blessings of God. He would do anything to receive a blessing from God.

Jacob believed in God's blessings. He demonstrated his belief through his actions. While his actions were not always what God would have preferred, his passion for God was admirable.

As Jacob aged, he also began to mature. He learned multiple lessons on the harm that deception causes. Once a mature man of God, God gave him a new name to signify His relationship with Jacob. His name would be changed from Jacob (meaning "supplanter" or "he who cheats") to Israel (meaning "triumphant with God.")

### CHART 5 - JOSEPH

Jacob, or Israel, would end up having a total of twelve sons. Their offspring would become known as the 'Twelve Tribes of Israel'. One of Israel's sons was a young man named Joseph.

Joseph was one of the younger sons and was also spoiled by his father. At a time in history where colored fabrics were rare and expensive, Israel made a special coat comprised of many different colors of fabric for Joseph. While Joseph was pampered by his father, God was preparing to lead him on a journey that would test his faith and mold him into a man of God.

The admirable thing about Joseph's journey is how he continued to remain faithful to God even during trying times. God's blessing and favor remained upon Joseph regardless of circumstances because of his faithfulness to God.

**SIDE NOTE:** *Share a time in your life when things were difficult, but God led you through it.*

Part of Joseph's success had to do with his ability to see God working through his ups and downs. After a long roller coaster ride of highs and lows, Joseph kept a positive outlook on all that had taken place in his life. He was a man of faith, and his faith brought about the blessings of God upon his life.

- » Genesis 39:2 "The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man..."
- » Genesis 39:3 "...the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand."
- » Genesis 39:21 "But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor..."
- » Genesis 39:23 "...the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper."

## CHART 5 - JOSEPH (CONTINUED)

Joseph's Journey of "ups and downs" (Genesis Chapters 37-50):

**UP** - At age seventeen, Joseph receives a prophetic dream about his future. In the dream, Joseph sees his family members bowing down to him. He tells his family about the dream.

**DOWN** - His brothers lash out in a jealous rage, throwing Joseph into a pit and then selling him into slavery, later telling Israel that Joseph is dead.

**UP** - God blesses Joseph even in slavery and Joseph becomes an overseer in the house of a high-ranking Egyptian military leader named Potiphar.

**DOWN** - Potiphar's wife tries to force Joseph to be intimate with her, but because of his loyalty to Potiphar and God, Joseph refuses. This causes Potiphar's wife to falsely accuse Joseph of attempted rape. Joseph is then thrown into an Egyptian prison.

**UP** - God continues to show him favor due to his faithfulness even while incarcerated. Joseph becomes an overseer over other prison inmates.

**UP** - Joseph interprets the dreams of two former employees of Pharaoh. When one of them is released, he eventually tells Pharaoh about Joseph's ability to interpret dreams. Pharaoh calls Joseph out of prison to interpret a dream that's bothering him. Joseph informs Pharaoh that the dream is prophesying an upcoming famine that will hit Egypt.

**UP** - Pharaoh appoints Joseph as the top leader over all food distribution in Egypt in order to prepare for the famine. Joseph begins to store a percentage of food for Egypt to survive the famine. When the famine hits Egypt and the surrounding areas, all people are forced to come to Egypt to get food from Joseph. This includes Joseph's brothers, who bow down to him in honor.

Though he was betrayed by many throughout his life, Joseph refused to hold grudges. He was a man who believed that God was in control. Take a look at Joseph's perspective and how it illustrates a biblical truth given to us today. **READ: Genesis 50:19-20, Romans 8:28**