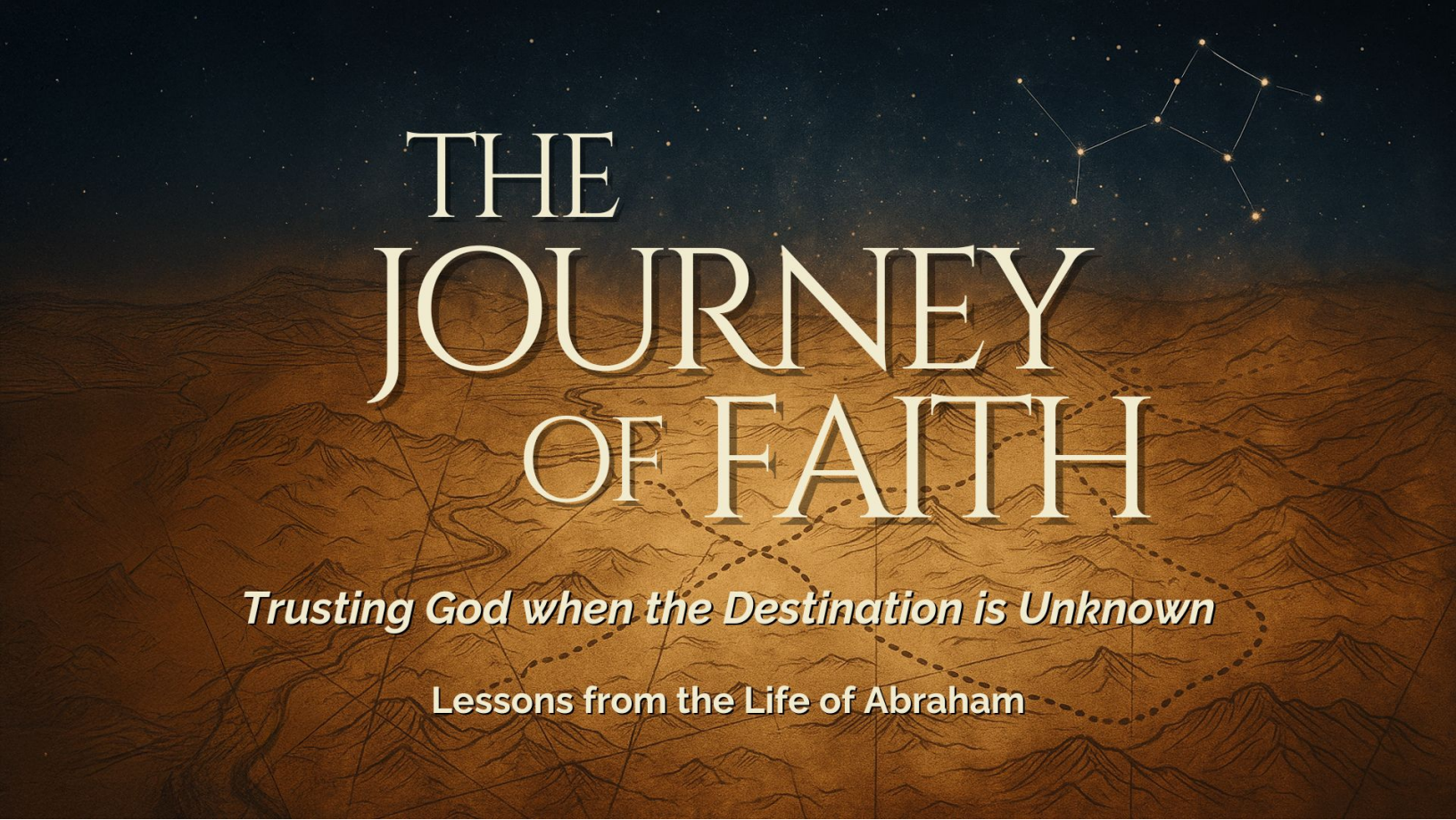




THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

Trusting God when the Destination is Unknown

Lessons from the Life of Abraham

A SIX-PART SERIES ON THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM

Sermon Outline Collection

Trusting God when the destination is unknown. Follow Abraham through calling, detours, assurance, struggle, surrender, and legacy.

01 The Call of Faith

Genesis 12:1-9

02 The Detour of Faith

Genesis 12:10-20

03 The Assurance of Faith

Genesis 15

04 The Struggle of Faith

Genesis 16-18

05 The Surrender of Faith

Genesis 22:1-19

06 The Legacy of Faith

Genesis 24-25

Prepared by Kevin Tillman | Resonate Ministries

Concise preaching outlines with Scripture references and brief point summaries. Develop each message for your own congregation.

WEEK 01 | PREACHING OUTLINE

The Call of Faith

Primary Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9

Central idea: Faith responds to God's call through obedience, surrender, and ongoing dependence, even when the destination is unknown.

Opening direction: Abram receives a call to leave familiar surroundings without a complete itinerary. Contrast our desire for a detailed plan with God's invitation to trust Him for the next step.

1. The Call That Disrupts

Genesis 12:1; Colossians 3:3; Matthew 6:33

God initiates Abram's journey and calls him beyond familiar sources of security. Dependence on God grows as we seek Him and respond to His direction.

2. The Cost That Demands

Genesis 12:1-3

Abram must release what is familiar, secure, and predictable. Following God involves surrendering control and trusting His promise without knowing every detail.

3. The Commitment That Decides

Genesis 12:4-7; Proverbs 3:5-6

Abram acts on what God has said. Obedience gives visible expression to trust and moves faith beyond agreement into a life shaped by God's direction.

4. The Consecration That Defines

Genesis 12:8-9

Abram builds an altar and calls on the Lord as he continues his journey. Worship and intentional surrender keep dependence on God central to the life of faith.

Closing response: Invite a specific step of obedience and surrender. Make room for prayer, worship, and renewed dependence on God.

Scripture references

Genesis 12:1-9; Colossians 3:3; Matthew 6:33; Proverbs 3:5-6.

Allusions: Matthew 4:19-20; Genesis 6:14; Exodus 3:10; Matthew 14:29; John 10:10.

WEEK 02 | PREACHING OUTLINE

The Detour of Faith

Primary Scripture: Genesis 12:10-20

Central idea: Pressure can lead to fear and compromise, but God remains faithful and calls us to return to trust.

Opening direction: A famine follows Abram's arrival in the promised land. Receiving God's promise does not remove hardship; the question is how we respond when pressure comes.

1. When Pressure Shows Up

Genesis 12:10; Psalm 56:3

The famine challenges Abram's expectations. Difficulty does not by itself mean we have missed God's direction; pressure reveals where we place our trust.

2. When Fear Takes Over

Genesis 12:11-13

Abram asks Sarai to conceal their marriage to protect himself. Fear narrows his focus to survival and leads him to manipulate the situation rather than rely on God.

3. When Things Start Falling Apart

Genesis 12:14-16

Sarai is taken into Pharaoh's household while Abram receives material benefits. Compromise creates consequences that apparent success or gain cannot justify.

4. When God Steps In

Genesis 12:17-20; 2 Timothy 2:13

God intervenes to protect Sarai and preserve His promise. Abram's failure exposes his need for grace and for a renewed direction in his journey.

Closing response: Call people to acknowledge fear-driven choices, turn from compromise, and take the next faithful step. Emphasize returning to God rather than hiding in shame.

Scripture references

Genesis 12:10-20; Psalm 56:3; 2 Timothy 2:13.

Promise recalled: Genesis 12:2-3. Closing allusions: Luke 16:10; Proverbs 3:5-6; Galatians 6:7.

WEEK 03 | PREACHING OUTLINE

The Assurance of Faith

Primary Scripture: Genesis 15

Central idea: Assurance rests on God's character and covenant promise, even before circumstances change.

Opening direction: The gap between a promise and its fulfillment can stir uncertainty. Abram brings his unanswered questions to God and receives reassurance grounded in God's own commitment.

1. When Fear Starts Talking

Genesis 15:1-2

God addresses Abram's fear and identifies Himself as his shield. Abram can bring honest questions into his relationship with God rather than face uncertainty alone.

2. When God Refocuses Your Vision

Genesis 15:3-6

God redirects Abram from his lack of an heir to the promise of descendants. Abram believes the Lord, and God credits that faith as righteousness.

3. When God Takes the Weight

Genesis 15:9-10, 12, 17

Abram prepares the covenant animals and falls into a deep sleep. The smoke and fire pass between the pieces, emphasizing God's initiative and commitment to fulfill His word.

4. When Faith Finds Its Footing

Genesis 15:18

God formally confirms His covenant with Abram. The son and land are not yet possessed, but God's promise gives faith a foundation beyond visible results.

Closing response: Invite people to rest in what God has promised rather than what they can presently see. Bring uncertainty to Him and trust His faithfulness.

Scripture references

Genesis 15 (especially vv. 1-6, 9-10, 12, 17-18).

Presence/fire allusions: Exodus 3:2; 13:21-22; 19:18; 40:38; 2 Chronicles 7:1; Malachi 3:2; Acts 2:3.

WEEK 04 | PREACHING OUTLINE

The Struggle of Faith

Primary Scripture: Genesis 16-18

Central idea: Trying to force God's promise creates painful consequences, yet His grace meets brokenness and renews hope.

Opening direction: Abram and Sarai's story includes both trust and failure. Explore how waiting can tempt believers to take control of what God has asked them to entrust to Him.

1. When Pressure Builds

Genesis 16:1-2

The continued absence of a child leads Sarai to propose a plan involving Hagar. Taking action to relieve anxiety is not the same as obeying God.

2. When Shortcuts Cost You

Genesis 16:4-6

The apparent solution produces contempt, blame, harsh treatment, and flight. Attempts to control the outcome bring relational wounds and consequences beyond the original problem.

3. When Grace Shows Up

Genesis 16:13; Genesis 17:5

God sees Hagar in her distress and later reaffirms His purpose for Abram by naming him Abraham. Human failure does not erase God's faithfulness or His care for those who suffer.

4. When Hope Wakes Up

Genesis 18:12-14

Sarah laughs at a promise that seems impossible at her age. God challenges her doubt and renews the promise, calling her to hope in His power and timing.

Closing response: Invite people to release control, acknowledge the harm caused by shortcuts, and receive God's grace. Encourage renewed hope where disappointment has made trust difficult.

Scripture references

Genesis 16-18 (especially 16:1-2, 4-6, 13; 17:5; 18:12-14).

Additional narrative references: Genesis 12:4; 16:16; 17:15 (ages and name changes).

WEEK 05 | PREACHING OUTLINE

The Surrender of Faith

Primary Scripture: Genesis 22:1-19

Central idea: Faith entrusts what matters most to God, obeying through costly uncertainty and relying on His provision.

Opening direction: After receiving Isaac, Abraham faces a test involving the son through whom God's promise will continue. Ask whether the gift has become more important to us than the Giver.

1. Faith Lets Go

Genesis 22:1-2

The narrator identifies this event as a test. Abraham is asked to entrust his beloved son and future to God; surrender reveals where his deepest confidence rests.

2. Faith Obeys Anyway

Genesis 22:3

Abraham rises early and begins the journey God commanded. His response demonstrates obedience rooted in trust even without an explanation of the outcome.

3. Faith Walks Uphill

Genesis 22:4-5; Hebrews 11:17-19

Abraham continues through a costly journey and speaks of returning with Isaac. Hebrews explains his confidence that God could raise the dead and keep His promise.

4. God Provides

Genesis 22:13-14

God stops the sacrifice of Isaac and provides a ram in his place. Abraham names the place for the Lord's provision; the substitute directs the sermon toward God's saving provision in Christ.

Closing response: Invite people to surrender control of what they treasure and depend on God's character. Point to Jesus as God's ultimate provision for our salvation.

Scripture references

Genesis 22:1-19 (especially vv. 1-5, 13-14).

Supporting passage referenced in the sermon: Hebrews 11:17-19.

WEEK 06 | PREACHING OUTLINE

The Legacy of Faith

Primary Scripture: Genesis 24-25

Central idea: Faith looks beyond one lifetime: it prepares the next generation, influences others, and perseveres to the end.

Opening direction: Ask what our lives will leave behind. Abraham's final years turn attention from personal comfort to the people who will continue after him.

1. Plan Ahead in Faith

Genesis 24:1-4

Abraham makes intentional arrangements for Isaac's future. A spiritual legacy grows through purposeful decisions that consider those who will follow us.

2. Build Faith into Others

Genesis 24:12

Abraham's servant turns to God in prayer as he carries out his assignment. Use his dependence on God to consider how our example encourages faith in those around us.

3. Finish Well

Genesis 25:7-8

Abraham reaches the end of a life that included both obedience and failure. Finishing well emphasizes perseverance and continued trust rather than a record of perfection.

4. Leave a Blessing

Genesis 25:11

God blesses Isaac after Abraham's death. God's work continues into another generation; our influence can encourage faith, though each person must respond to God personally.

Closing response: Ask whose faith is being strengthened by your life. Identify an intentional investment in another person and a step toward finishing faithfully.

Scripture references

Genesis 24-25 (especially 24:1-4, 12; 25:7-8, 11).