



Bible Study Guide

By Faith Abraham...

Text: Hebrews 11:8; Genesis 12:1-8



Bible Study Focus: Throughout Hebrews 11, we discover that faith is more than belief—it is belief expressed through action.

- Abel's faith led him to offer a more excellent sacrifice.
- Noah's faith led him to build an ark for a flood he had never seen.
- Abraham's faith led him to leave everything familiar and follow God into an unknown future.

Faith often requires us to trust God's promises before we can see God's plan.

Key verses: *"By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going."*— **Hebrews 11:8 (NASB)**

Read Genesis 12:1-4

- **Our Journey of Faith Requires Difficult Obedience**
 - **The Command:** “Go from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you.”
 - **Country** – Abram’s culture, traditions, and physical security
 - **Relatives** – Abram’s familiar relationships and support system
 - **Father’s House** – Abram’s identity, inheritance, and place of belonging.
 - **Following Jesus often creates similar tensions where our faith may require us to leave:**
 - Cultural values that oppose God’s truth
 - Familiar habits and relationships outside of God’s KNOWN will
 - Former identities and lifestyles.
 - **Matthew 16:24** – Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.”
 - **Deny** – *aparneomai* – to affirm that one has no acquaintance or connection with someone. (...including yourself)
 - Three characteristics of Christ’s “followers”: (...a journey of faith)
 - The denial of self
 - Taking up one’s cross
 - Following Jesus Christ – you cannot make your own path!

Question: Which of Abram’s sacrifices would have been the most difficult for you?

- **With every ask of the Lord, there is a promise of blessing:**
 - I will make you into a great nation.
 - I will bless you
 - I will make your name great
 - You shall be a blessing
 - I will bless those who bless you
 - The one who curses you I will curse
 - In you all the families of the earth will be blessed
- Matthew 6:33 – “But seek **first** His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things **will be** provided to you.

● **Our Journey of Faith Requires Altar Building**

- **Read Genesis 12:4-8**
- Twice in this passage Abram builds an altar.
 - Altar – *mizbeach* – a place of **slaughter**;
 - A place of **surrender**
 - A place where something **dies** so that worship can occur
 - A place that you do not show up empty-handed
 - A place where you expect to **leave** something behind
- An altar represented two things:
 - **A Place of Contact (verses 6,7)**
 - Outnumbered by the Canaanites, Abram needed assurance, so:
 - The Lord **appeared** to Abram: God **initiated** the encounter
 - Abram **responds** by building an altar.
 - **A Place of Communication (verse 8)**
 - Abram pitches his tent between Bethel (**House** of God) and Ai (Heap of **Ruins**) ...the tension between believing for God’s presence and promises or the fear of everything not working out.
 - In response Abram builds an altar and **calls** upon God: Abram **initiates** the encounter.
 - ****When life places us between Bethel and Ai, communication with the Lord keeps us moving toward God’s promises rather than toward destruction.**