

Home Group Questions

the week of 10/14/2018

Genesis 12:10-20

ABRAHAM – WHEN FEAR AND FAITH COLLIDE

GETTING STARTED

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel spoke on Abraham. Abraham was chosen by God to be the father of the nation of Israel with descendants as numerous as the stars. However, right after God's promises to Abraham, Abraham is fearful that he will be killed by Pharaoh and chooses to live a deceptive life.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read Genesis 12:10-20 (Also read Genesis 12:1-9)

Abraham receives amazing promises from God in verses 1-9 but is overcome with fear that Pharaoh might kill him. Talk about all the things that are concerning to you about this passage and how Abraham acts...also talk about the impact that his decisions made on Sarai and even on Pharaoh and his household. Talk about how our human nature is worried and fearful about problems that may not even come into existence. Sometimes we worry about things that never happen.

- How do you balance “not being fearful” with trusting God? How do you balance being courageous in your walk with God and yet not taking unnecessary risks in your life? What is the difference between taking reasonable steps to feel safe in your life and yet not being paralyzed by fear either so you never take risks in anything?

2. Read 2 Timothy 1:6-8. Verse 7 in this passage is a well-known verse. What is the context of this passage...what really is Paul challenging Timothy to be bold about in his life? What does that kind of boldness...and lack of shame for the Lord look like in our everyday lives? How can a spirit of fear overwhelm us as we seek to live for the Lord and how can we keep our courage and

strength in the Lord vibrant in our lives when faced with intimidating situations as believers?

3. Discuss the chart below...discuss how this chart can be seen in how Abraham acted in this passage. Share specific examples in your life when you have felt like you're on the “Fear” side of the chart..and other examples when you've been living on the “Faith” side:



4. Read Philippians 4:6-7. Being anxious about something is really just another way of expressing a fear in your life. Discuss this passage and how faithfully you incorporate prayer and “leaving things with God” into your life.

- Obviously this verse doesn't mean that we just pray and do nothing. Scripture again and again tells us to pray but also to move forward in faith when we face uncertainties in our lives. What are some truths about the Lord that we need to remember in order to better facilitate our experience with the peace of God that is mentioned in verse 7? What does it mean that this peace will “guard” your hearts and your minds?

MOVING FORWARD... Pray to live more faith-fully, and less fearfully!!