

Pastor Dave Patterson
Stepping Into the Unknown
1.3.2021

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

“On the first day of the week, we gathered”—The Apostle Paul

[Psalm 92:13]

Those who are **planted in the house** of the LORD will flourish in the courts of our God.

When I trust God with the first and the best, He makes promises: protection and provision.

5 WAYS TO START STRONG IN 2021

1. GIVE GOD THE FIRST OF EVERY DAY

(Morning prayer and devotions - Psalm 5:1-3, Psalm 63:1, Mark 1:35)

2. GIVE GOD THE FIRST DAY OF EVERY WEEK

(Make His House a priority - Acts 20:7, Mark 16:9, Hebrews 10:25)

3. GIVE GOD THE FIRST AND BEST OF YOUR FINANCES

(Bring the tithe and practice generosity - Proverbs 3:9, Malachi 3:10-11, 1 Corinthians 16:2)

4. PUT THE WORD OF GOD FIRST

(Bible Reading Plan / personal growth strategy - Psalm 199:11, 16, 105) (Discipleship Journal Book-by-Book Plan)

5. MAKE YOUR HEALTH AND FITNESS A TOP PRIORITY

(Diet / Exercise - needed changes - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 9:26-27, Romans 12:1)

Humble Mantra for this year: ***I have no idea.*** (sympathize with people)

[Genesis 12:1-4]

The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land **that I will show you.** I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”

So Abram departed as the LORD had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.

I will show you. I will make you. I will bless you.

[Galatians 3:26-29]

For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and **God’s promise to Abraham belongs to you.**

You can't start with God-obedience and end in self-reliance, hoping for God to bless you.

If you settle with where you are at right now, you can die in a dry and parched place without seeing the promises of God.

What We Learn From Abraham's Journey Of Faith—

- 1. Rely on the Word** = Abraham obeyed

"So Abram departed as the LORD had instructed"
(Genesis 12:4)

The specifics will be revealed when we get there. Be committed to the Word of God, and let it become a default mechanism.

- 2. Refuse to Settle**

[Genesis 11:31-32]

Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran (mountaineer), and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans **to go to Canaan**. But when they came to Harran (dried up, parch place), they settled there.

Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Harran.

We get comfortable with mediocrity because it is predictable; whatever the last year has dealt you, WE DON'T STOP HERE!

Faith is an optimism based in promise.

- 3. Return to First Love** = intimacy / "friend of God"

[Isaiah 41: 8 & 10]

“But you... descendants of **Abraham my friend**,
do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Time-tested faith—consistent conversation—developed intimacy

FOR MONDAY—

1. Commit the beginning of your day (even 15-20 minutes) to time with the Lord. Set a course by choosing a Bible Reading Plan for your year.
2. Write down a promise that God has spoken to you, and place it where you'll be reminded of it daily.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What do you think this year will hold? (Even the next few weeks and months)
2. Into what are you and/or your family stepping? What are some sustainable decisions you can make right now? (Refer to the five ways to start strong as a launching point.)
3. When have you anticipated something, only to arrive or experience and find it completely different than expected?
4. How do we walk forward **with faith** into our world and individual scenarios? What changes are required?
5. Which relationships do you need to develop in order to move forward in your faith this year?
6. How will God show us, make us, and bless us the things that he has prepared for us? What did Abraham have to do?