

LIVING BEYOND

WHEN THE WORLD DOESN'T

DISCUSSION GUIDE

MAIN IDEA: God will allow our faith to be tested so we can be refined in the process.

WELCOME 10 MINUTES

Share about a time you felt like your faith was tested.

WORSHIP 10 MINUTES

Read Psalm 22:1-5, 19-24. This is a famous passage because Jesus quoted verse 1 on the cross, but pay attention to the progression from anguish to hope. Read the passage again. Spend some time sharing where you are struggling in this time and then as a group pray for those struggles and ask God what you hope for.

WORD 35 MINUTES

Our fall series on Hebrews 11 will cover numerous Old Testament stories. So while our weekly discussion will unpack Hebrews 11 and the weekend message, let's also commit to reading God's word before meeting together so we have a fresh view of the whole story.

1. Read Genesis 22:1-18. What do you notice about Abraham's faith through this ordeal?
2. Read Hebrews 11:17-19. What insight does this show about Abraham's mindset and why he was willing to obey?
3. Read Genesis 12:1-13 & 22:15-18. Why is it significant that God's promise to Abraham was affirmed over 30 years later?

4. What does the role of obedience play in the fulfillment of God's promise according to this passage?
5. Read 1 Peter 1:6-7. According to Peter, what is God trying to do when he allows us to go through tests or trials of faith?
6. Is there a test of faith you are walking in right now? If so, share with the group how you see your faith being tested.
7. Steve mentioned that there were four ways we can discern what God is calling us into:
 - 1) Go to Scripture.
 - 2) Is there a consensus among spiritually wise people in my life?
 - 3) Do circumstances appear to support what I think God is asking me to do?
 - 4) Is there a peace in my spirit about this? How can you make sure you are watching for or seeking these four areas of confirmation?
8. Where is an area of your life you know you need to trust God right now and step into faith?

WORKS 15 MINUTES

1. Have you served as a group yet? Hurry and get a plan on the calendar before the holidays come.
2. Daily Devotion: Read Genesis 25-28, 49-50 in preparation for next week's message and group discussion.