



## 12 WEEK SERMON SERIES: COURAGEOUS FAITH LIFE LESSONS FROM OLD TESTAMENT HEROES

Under the same title, you can find a book written by Ed Hindson. This Summer, we will be challenged to live beyond the normal limits of life and experience the unlimited power of God on a daily basis. We will learn to overcome obstacles, battles, weaknesses, and fear with victory.

Today, we start with...

### ABRAHAM: THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

Faith is the key that unlocks the power of God in our lives. It enables us to live by His promises and experience His blessings in our personal lives. The first reference to believing in God is in the story of Abraham. His journey of faith started at the age of 75. Although he did not live a life of perfection, he is known as the epitome of faith, a friend of God, the Forefather of Israel, and was credited with righteousness. Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible.

## ABRAHAM: THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

*Read Hebrews 11:1-3, 6, 8-12, 17-19, James 2:23*

**It was by faith,** Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land God would give him as his inheritance. Abraham went, without knowing where he was going, to start a new nation.

**It was by faith,** Abraham (who was 100) and Sarah (who was 90) were able to have a son; his name was Isaac. Isaac was the first of many descendants who would be known as God's "chosen people"; as God's Holy Nation, Israel. Like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore, there would be no way to count them.

**It was by faith,** Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son. This sacrificial act was a foreshadow of the sacrificial death of God's Son that actually occurred at the same location. Both came from a miraculous birth, carried their own wood, were submissive to their father, and were the only son. Both were also expected to be alive after the sacrifice.

- 1 What obstacles and fears did Abraham have to overcome when leaving his homeland, when he was told he would start a nation at the age of 75, and told to sacrifice his only son? Explain how you may be able to identify with these fears?
- 2 What motivated him to have courageous faith in God? (Hint: think about the covenant and promises). What were the results? What might Abraham say to us today if he were here? Would you agree with him?
- 3 Hebrew 11:6 makes three very important points about faith. What are they? How might you adjust your faith journey to experience the rewards?