



ALL IN Growth Group Guide Week 1 - “Follow”

GETTING STARTED

Thanks for joining us for Week 1 of Westside’s ALL IN Growth Group Study! We’re excited to be growing together as a church and taking our next steps toward Jesus. This past weekend we learned about Abraham, the hero of faith who radically followed God’s plan and was blessed beyond belief.

However, you may be surprised to learn that Abraham made many mistakes. As it turns out, he faced a lot of surprises, challenges and temptations on the journey of faith, and he didn’t always stay on the path.

Group Discussion:

What’s the worst delay or detour you’ve ever experienced on a major trip?

For review, remember that God had called Abraham out of the familiar environment where he was raised (the town of Harran). He was asked to leave his surroundings, his relationships, and his comfort zone in order to follow God into the unknown. As far as we know, Abraham didn’t have much information about God before this. He was simply responding to what God said when He appeared to him - *“Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you.”* (Genesis 12:1). At the end of the day, it was Abraham’s willingness to keep following God that led to him fulfilling God’s promise that *“All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”* (Genesis 12:3).

DIGGING IN

Part 1: The Detour

Have someone in the group read Genesis 12:10-20, and then answer the following questions together:

1. When Abraham encountered a famine (verse 10) he decided to change course and head to Egypt.
 - Why do you think Abraham responded this way?

- How could fear seek to derail you from the path God has in mind for you?
2. When Abraham and Sarai arrived at the border of Egypt, they faced another potential problem (verses 11-13): He assumed Pharaoh would **probably** want to steal the beautiful Sarai away from Abraham.
 - What previous promise from God was Abraham overlooking in running this dishonest plan?
 - How could you short-circuit your fears and replace them with faith? Share about a time when you stood strong in the face of doubt or uncertainty.

Part 2: Back on Track

Now read Genesis 13:1-4 and discuss the following:

3. God used Pharaoh to move Abraham back out of Egypt, right back to the place he had already been (Bethel), where once again he called on the name of the Lord (verse 4).
4. Share around the group about a time when God brought you back to the place you knew you needed to be in order to follow His purpose for your life. Do you have any regrets about returning to Him?
5. Consider the following verses as a group. What encouragement can you give one another about getting back on track?

John 3:3

Hebrews 10:16-17

2 Corinthians 5:17

Ezekiel 36:26

Romans 6:4

WORKING IT OUT

6. How do you think God might be positioning you to “bless others” like Abraham? What changes could you make in your life over the next 6 weeks to step into that calling?
7. What problem or pressure are you facing this week that has you thinking about taking a detour? How could this be an opportunity for you to stay faithful, and for God to fulfill His promise to you?

8. Who is looking to you as an example of what following Jesus looks like? What's one way you can lead the way this week?

9. Pastor Gabe challenged us this week to follow on this spiritual journey of ALL IN. What encouragement or need does that surface for you? How can you be sensitive to God's leading over the next few weeks as we dive deeper together?

PRAYER

Spend a couple minutes as a group praying for the needs of those inside the group, as well as for any friends, family members, co-workers or neighbors that you could impact in the coming months.

BIBLE PASSAGES

Genesis 12:10-20

¹⁰ At that time a severe famine struck the land of Canaan, forcing Abram to go down to Egypt, where he lived as a foreigner. ¹¹ As he was approaching the border of Egypt, Abram said to his wife, Sarai, "Look, you are a very beautiful woman. ¹² When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife. Let's kill him; then we can have her!' ¹³ So please tell them you are my sister. Then they will spare my life and treat me well because of their interest in you."

¹⁴ And sure enough, when Abram arrived in Egypt, everyone noticed Sarai's beauty. ¹⁵ When the palace officials saw her, they sang her praises to Pharaoh, their king, and Sarai was taken into his palace. ¹⁶ Then Pharaoh gave Abram many gifts because of her—sheep, goats, cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels.

¹⁷ But the Lord sent terrible plagues upon Pharaoh and his household because of Sarai, Abram's wife. ¹⁸ So Pharaoh summoned Abram and accused him sharply. "What have you done to me?" he demanded. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? ¹⁹ Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' and allow me to take her as my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and get out of here!" ²⁰ Pharaoh ordered some of his men to escort them, and he sent Abram out of the country, along with his wife and all his possessions.

Genesis 13:1-4

1 So Abram left Egypt and traveled north into the Negev, along with his wife and Lot and all that they owned. 2 (Abram was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold.) 3 From the Negev, they continued traveling by stages toward Bethel, and they pitched their tents between Bethel and Ai, where they had camped before. 4 This was the same place where Abram had built the altar, and there he worshiped the Lord again.

John 3:3

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

Hebrews 10:16-17

16 "This is the new covenant I will make with my people on that day, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."

17 Then he says, "I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds."

Ezekiel 36:26

And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.

2 Corinthians 5:17

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

Romans 6:4

For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.



ALL IN RESOURCES, VIDEOS & MORE

www.westsidecommunitychurch.com/allin

Join us this Sunday, February 3rd, for Part 2 of our ALL IN series
as we explore the life of Peter in a message called *"Unlimited Courage."*

Bring a friend!



All Scripture is from the New Living Translation of the Bible, unless otherwise noted.