

Series: Family of Light

Session Title: Father of Faith II: Hero, Horror and the Unknown Conversation

Date and Time: _____

Number of Students: _____

Materials Needed:

- Pens
- Double-sided copies of pages A50-51
- Copies of Code Talk (pages A52-53) clipped and taped up in the room
- Prizes
- DVD copy of *Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*

Lesson Objectives:

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to...

- Identify Abraham as a hero of faith.
- Identify commitment as the characteristic that made Abraham a hero of faith.
- Discover that being a follower of God often involves counting the cost and deciding whether or not to commit through sacrifice.
- Discover that God is in constant communication with us through the language of challenge and response. Students will learn that they communicate with God by how they respond to challenges.
- Plan out what they wish to say to God and then determine action language to communicate that.

Pastoral Objectives:

Note to leader: check task three and four from last lesson. Do you need to follow up with your students about their goals and commitments?

Lead In One:

The central passage to this lesson is Genesis 22:1-14. This passage makes two distinct claims. First, the difference between a person of faith and a hero of faith is the price they are willing to pay for their commitment. Abraham was willing to pay any price to be a follower of God, making him a hero of faith. Second, God is in constant dialogue with his followers through the language of challenge and response. These are two very powerful and two very distinct ideas. This lesson plan will be guided by the text and will be clearly divided between the pursuit of those two insights. There will then be two lead ins. Do the first lead in before task one and the second before task two.

There is a great clip near the end of *Lord of The Rings: The Return of The King*. It is called “The Last Debate”. It is chapter 46 of the standard edition DVD. The clip begins with Gandalf’s line, “Frodo has passed beyond my sight.” It ends with Gimli saying: “Certain death, small chance of victory. What are we waiting for?” Before playing the clip, tell the students that you are going to show them a movie clip and that they need to answer one question as it is playing. The question is: what characteristic makes the men in this scene heroes? After showing the clip, solicit some answers and then transition into task one instructions.

Task One:

Divide the students into small groups and have each discussion group read Genesis 22:1-14 and Hebrews 11:17 and then complete only task one, the first page of the double sided handout. When they are finished, regroup and solicit answers to all the questions. Clarify the best answers. The ideal answers for question one are the second, third, and sixth answers.

Lead In Two:

After the completion of task one, draw the attention of the students to the various pieces of code you have taped up around the room (see Code Talk on pages A52-53). Ask them to work in pairs and to travel around the room decoding the messages. Each message has a clue as to the type of code being used. Declare that the first team to decode the message wins a prize. As they think they have all the answers, they can approach you to confirm. Award a prize to the first team to give you the accurate answers. Transition into task two upon completion.

Task Two and Three Instructions:

After doing the second lead in, communicate that the passage, Genesis 22:1-14, reveals that we are in a constant dialogue with God through the language of challenge and response. Have them plan out messages that reflect the heart of what they wish to communicate to God according to the exercise format on the handout. This is task two and three on the second page of the handout.

When the students are finished, allow those students who wish to share their answers to the second page of the handout. Depending on the size of your group, you might have them go back to their pairs and share their answers with their partner, then to pray together about what they have written down.

Conclusion:

You could conclude by saying something like:

To be a true follower of God has always involved total commitment. Jesus said, "Unless you are willing to take up your cross and follow me you cannot be my disciple." Abraham set the bar high; he was willing to pay any price to be a follower of God. At some point in all of our journeys we will have to consider how much we are willing to pay to be followers of God. Grace is free but following God is costly. We communicate to God the depths of our love and the extent of our availability with the way we respond to the various challenges the journey of faith brings to us. What are you communicating to God this week about your love and availability?