

Series: Family of Light

Session Title: Father of Faith I: Real Faith – Real Proof

Date and Time: _____

Number of Students: _____

Materials Needed:

- Blindfold
- Pens
- Double-sided copies of pages A47-48
- Copies of page A49
- DVD copy of *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

Lesson Objectives:

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

- Identify Abraham as a template for real faith.
- Give two reasons why Abraham was a template for real faith: 1) he believed that God was able to fulfill his promises, and 2) he believed in the possibility of a better world.
- State two ways in which Abraham proved the reality of his faith: 1) he left behind everything he had once trusted in to follow God into uncharted territory, and 2) he became a partner with God in the outworking of his promises.

Pastoral Objectives:

Lead In:

There is a little game called Blind Faith that has been used countless times to illustrate the importance of trust and faith when walking with Jesus. The game is simple. Ask for a volunteer, blindfold that volunteer, and then make the volunteer the following promises: 1) I

will not allow you to get hurt or injured in this game, and 2) if you follow my directions you will win a prize. Then guide the student around various obstacles and imaginary hazards. For extra fun, take the volunteer up onto a stage or balcony and have him/her step off into what s/he believes is empty space. Have a table or step in place of course! For even more fun direct the volunteer up onto a stage or table and tell him/her to fall backwards. Have all of the other students in place to make the catch. The point of this game is obvious: real faith involves believing the promises enough to risk the journey!

Consider transitioning into the tasks by saying something like this:

Faith is not just saying you believe in stuff. Faith is believing that God will do what he says enough to actually follow him where he is calling you. You can't just call yourself a believer but remain exactly as and where you are; it doesn't work that way. The proof of your faith is in the journey.

Task One Instructions:

Gather students into discussion groups (about six to ten people) and give them a double-sided copy of pages A47-48. Tell them to begin with the side that says 'Father of Faith I: Real Faith – Real Proof' at the top of the page. Have them read the two Scripture passages indicated on the page and then proceed with the first task, which consists of two comprehension questions. Assign a time limit of approximately fifteen minutes. When they are finished, regroup and decide on the best answers (see lesson objectives).

Task Two Instructions:

Tell the students that you are going to give them another handout so that they can complete task two. It is a list of God's promises. Explain that it is not an exhaustive list of God's promises but rather it is a selection. Ask them to read through it and each student to choose two promises that they really connect with. Ask them to be prepared to share in group why they chose the one's they did. Now have students turn the handout over and follow the instructions for task two. Hand out copies of page A49, entitled God's Promises.

Task Three and Four Instructions:

Have students continue with tasks three and four before taking up any of the tasks on the second page. When they have completed the entire second page, take up the final tasks as a group. Allow each group to share what they chose and why. Tell them that you will ask them the following week what they did. Make sure to follow up with them.

Conclusion:

As a concluding exercise show the clip from *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* where Indy must make the walk of faith through the various booby traps guarding the Holy Grail. Before you play the clip, ask the students to identify the similarities between the faith showed by Indy and the faith of Abraham. The expected answers include that both had to proceed before they had it all worked out. Although Indy had his father's notebook, he had not worked out all the clues. Nevertheless, he went forward. Likewise Abraham did not have all the information yet God revealed what he needed to know one step at a time. Abraham had to trust that YHWH would show up with the info when the need arose.

Consider wrapping up the evening by saying something like this:

Just like Indiana demonstrated his faith in the word of his father by following the instructions and moving out into dangerous ground, so do we demonstrate our faith in the promises of God by stepping out into active faith and journey. Indiana also had to believe that what he was seeking was worth the risk, otherwise his faith would have been stupid and reckless. He considered the grail worth risking for and it saved his father's life. We have to decide whether the better world God promises is worth all the effort of partnership. Being a person of faith hasn't changed much in 4000 years; it still means believing in what God said enough to go where God points us.