

## Week 4: On a Mission...to Your Home

This week we'll be reflecting on episodes in the life of the patriarch Abraham and his marriage to Sarah. The entire story is found in Genesis 12-24, but we're going to pull out several key passages and events for your meditation. It seems the theme of Abraham's life was that friendship with God is not easy, there are lots of twists and turns, but God is faithful and will never leave you alone. Let's look at Abraham's example as our father in faith and learn from his life. For more of our thoughts on these passages, make sure you are signed up at [Cana90.org](http://Cana90.org) to receive your weekly video from us!

### Messy Family Podcast Resource for the Week:

MP060: Forgiveness

MP097: Elements of a Family Culture

## Monday

### *KICKED OUT OF THE PARENTS' BASEMENT*

*The LORD said to Abram: Go forth from your land, your relatives and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you. I will make your name great so that you will be a blessing.*

genesis 12:1-2

Remember God calls each one of us out of our comfort zone not to punish us, but to bless us. The Lord's words to Abraham are a nifty reinforcement of Genesis 2:24 ("Therefore a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife.") Christ Himself would quote this passage in Matthew 19:5 when restoring the original understanding of lifelong covenant marriage. Just as Abram had to leave home and go on a mission to the home God had set apart for him, we are all called to leave what WE know so that the Lord may make us into who He created us to be. In marriage a large part of that starts with becoming one flesh with our spouse, as Genesis 2:24 says.

Some things to ponder today...

- How has the Lord called you forth from "your land and your relatives"?
- How is your marriage different from the relationships of your parents and family members?  
What have you and your spouse chosen or needed to do differently?

- Share with your spouse some things that were honestly difficult to be called away from for each of you as you journeyed through your marriage. Be patient and kind in this sharing.

## Tuesday

### LIAR, LIAR, PANTS ON FIRE

*When Abram was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know that you are a beautiful woman. When the Egyptians see you, they will say, "She is his wife": then they will kill me but let you live. Please say, therefore, that you are my sister, so that I may fare well on your account and my life may be spared for your sake."*

**GENESIS 12:11-13**

Lying is wrong and asking someone to lie for you is wrong. (Spoiler: Abram & Sarai make it out of Egypt alive but let's just say... things don't turn out well for anyone involved!) Abram asked his wife to lie for him so he would not be punished. Yet eventually, both of them harvested the consequences of that lie. We love our spouses, depend on them, and want their best, but lying to achieve any of that is never a good option.

- Where have you lied about your spouse/marriage to save face, for yourself or your spouse? Have you ever asked your spouse to lie to protect you, your ego, or your pride?
- Are there other areas of sin that you have asked your spouse to participate in -physically, emotionally or financially?
- Ask forgiveness for any of these times. If necessary, we recommend going to the sacrament of Reconciliation. There is a great grace available for healing and change in this sacrament.

# Wednesday

## ROTFL: ROLL ON THE FLOOR LAUGHING

*Abraham fell face down and laughed as he said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah give birth at ninety?"*

**genesis 17:17**

God has just told Abraham that Sarah will bear him a son, an heir who will carry on the covenant the Lord made with him. Abraham's response is less than grateful. Granted, at age 100 and with Sarah at 90, the Lord's earlier promise (Genesis 15:5 "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so, he added, will your descendants be") seems a bit far fetched. It might have seemed to Abraham as though God had forgotten His earlier promises.

...Yet, we know the Lord delivers, literally and figuratively. But sometimes, like Abraham at this moment, we doubt.

- What is your gut reaction when you reflect back on what you expected marriage and family life would be like?
- What has the Lord promised you in your marriage? Do you still trust Him? Why or why not?
- If you discover you don't, go to Him and have that conversation with Him. (Hint: He already knows you are struggling...so revisiting that subject is really more for your sake than His.)

# Thursday

## WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, GOD?!

*Then God said to Abraham, "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There offer him up as a burnt offering on one of the heights that I will point out to you."*

**genesis 22:2**

Abraham and Sarah had waited a long time, to the tune of 100 years, for their son Isaac to be born. God promised, they believed, then they lost faith, then God delivered (again, excuse the pun).

Now, God calls Abraham to take his ONLY SON and sacrifice him?! It would be easy to side with Abraham if he chose to disobey God. But he doesn't. He obediently follows the Lord's instructions. Tomorrow we will see where that gets him. But for today...

- Has the Lord ever called you to sacrifice or give up something that you thought was a special gift from Him? What was it?
- How deeply and radically do you trust the Lord? Where can you grow in this trust? Revisit the conversation you had with Him yesterday, and ask the Lord to bring you deeper.
- Ask the Lord to help you grow in your trust of Him as Heavenly Father who delivers all that is good to His children. Meditate on Matthew 7:11 and pray this Scripture to Him.

## Friday

### OBEDIENCE AND BLESSINGS

*"...because you acted as you did in not withholding from Me your son, your only one, I will bless you and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants will take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants, all the nations of the earth will find blessing, because you obeyed my command."*

**GENESIS 22:51-18**

Abraham was totally obedient to the Lord's command and His angel intervened to save Isaac. Abraham's obedience brings him great blessings not only for him and his descendants but "all the nations of the earth will find blessing"...All because Abraham obeyed. Discuss the following three points with your spouse:

- Where is God calling you to greater obedience during Cana90?
- How is this difficult?
- Return to the areas where you don't trust God. Ask God for the grace to follow him with radical obedience.

# Weekend: Grow Your Family Culture!

## DISCUSSION

- Tell your children the story of their birth. They will LOVE the details (not the gorey or intimate ones, mind you. Skip those!) Were there any special or interesting circumstances surrounding their conception/pregnancy/birth?
- Tell the story of how you and your spouse met. If you know it, tell them the story of how their grandparents met and where they raised their family.

## HANDS ON

- ★ Brainstorm a list of 20-25 things that your family has experienced together. The list could include people you all know, places you have been, movies you have enjoyed or experiences you have had together. Put these things on cards and use them to play Charades.
- ★ Pull out picture albums (or old Facebook posts!) and go down memory lane with your kids.
- ★ Go stargazing with your children and incite wonder at God's creative genius. Pro Tip: If you have a smartphone there are many good stargazing apps that will help you easily find constellations.
- ★ Make a pilgrimage to a shrine or church in your area with your family. Offer a special intention for your journey that you all discuss together.
- ★ Practice "obedience" by playing Simon Says (or Father Says) with your kids. This is a fun way to have kids practice immediate obedience and listening!
- ★ Here are some fun coloring pages covering the story of Abraham and his family.  
<https://www.coloring.ws/abraham.htm> ..... Because who doesn't love COLORING PAGES!