

JOURNEY CHURCH
FAMILY BUILD GROUP

S E R I E S 2

**CHARACTER
BUILDS A
FAMILY**

AGENDA 1: Abraham's Faith

TEXT: Genesis 22:3-18 (*assign a specific verse to each one to read.*)

INTRODUCTION: **BG leader should start a discussion, anybody can share his opinion.*

Explain the word **FAITH** by giving synonymous words and explain why you have chosen that word.

Example: FAITH – synonymous to the word BELIEF

Sharing: Background and Commentary

(BG leader should study the background and commentary for his discussion with the group.)

This story best describes the testing of faith on the covenant between God and Abraham. Remember Abraham and his wife Sarah were in their later years and Sarah was already past the age of childbearing. (Gen 18:11-13) It is so impossible for them to have a child but God says "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" When Abram was 99 years old, a covenant promise was given by God, significantly change his name from Abram to Abraham which means "father of many nations" (Gen 17:1-7) This covenant promise of having an increase of descendants begins when his only child Isaac was born. (Gen 21:1-6)

Now in our story, God made intentional testing of faith to see the ultimate obedience and belief of Abraham to God who gave the covenant. God wants to see the focus of Abraham if it is to be given (Isaac) or the giver (Yahweh).

True faith is not seeing what we receive but seeing the ONE who gives. God wants to teach us to see the invisible, to believe the incredible, and to receive the impossible.

Sharing: Question and Answer

(The BG leader should be a good facilitator of questions, allow the members to express their opinions on each question, ask 2 -3 members for each question to start discussions.)

Question 1: What is true faith for you?

Question 2: What is the hardest test of faith you encounter in your life?

Question 3: How do you see this story of Abraham and Isaac relates to your life? Do you ever experience giving up something because you believe in God?

Sharing: Supporting Verses

(BG leader can ask 1-2 members to read and give their opinion on these support verses on the topic.)

(Hebrews 11:17-18, Hebrews 6:13, Hebrews 10:23)

Sharing: Conclusion and Opinion

(Final question to evaluate the learning of members.)

Question: What did we learn in our Family Build Group today?

Answer: * *The covenant and promise of God remain to a family that trusts Him amid all difficulties in life.*

AGENDA 2: Isaac's Obedience

TEXT: Genesis 26:12-33 (*assign a specific verse to each one to read.*)

INTRODUCTION: **BG leader should start a discussion, anybody can share his opinion.*

What is the difference between **TRUE obedience** and **ULTIMATE obedience**?

Sharing: Background and Commentary

(BG leader should study the background and commentary for his discussion with the group.)

There was a famine in the land (v1) and everybody is set to go to Egypt for food provision. The Lord commanded Isaac (V2) "live in the land where I tell you to live." God gave him the direction "stay in the land for a while, and I will be with you and bless you." In (V6) Isaac obeyed God and stayed in Gerar, this obedience brings God's favor in his life and family.

1. God made a way for Isaac and Rebekah to have the favor of King Abimelek (v11)
2. God gave Isaac blessing on riches and wealth in the middle of famine (v12-v14)
3. God made him powerful (v16)
4. God allowed them to dig water in the time of famine (v19, 21,33-34)

Obedience will always bring favor to your family. The more we see God's will in our life and family, the more we will reap the promise of God through our obedience.

Sharing: Question and Answer

(The BG leader should be a good facilitator of questions, allow the members to express their opinions on each question, ask 2 -3 members for each question to start discussions.)

Question 1: What are your struggles in obedience? And how do you overcome it?

Question 2: How can you relate the story of Isaac's obedience in your personal life?

Question 3: What are your plans to change in your life to be a blessing to your family?

Sharing: Supporting Verses

(BG leader can ask 1-2 members to read and give their opinion on these support verses on the topic.)

(1John 2:4-6, Psalm 119:10)

Sharing: Conclusion and Opinion

(Final question to evaluate the learning of members.)

Question: What did we learn in our Family Build Group today?

Answer: * *Our obedience to God attracts His favor and blessing to our family.*

AGENDA 3: Jacob's Persistence

TEXT: Genesis 35:1-15 (*assign a specific verse to each one to read.*)

INTRODUCTION: **BG leader should start a discussion, anybody can share his opinion.*

What do you think is the difference between **DESTINY** and **DIRECTION**?

Sharing: Background and Commentary

(BG leader should study the background and commentary for his discussion with the group.)

Jacob and Esau were the two sons of Isaac, Jacob's name means (Supplanter) "*someone who seizes*" or "*deceiver.*" He lives upon his name when he deceives his father Isaac and brother Esau with the privilege of the blessing of the birthright that supposedly intended for the eldest son (Gen 27:1-41) Jacob started wrong on his character with the help of his mother Rebekah that brought him to live in fear from the grudges and threat of his brother Esau (Gen 7:41). In our story, as Jacob perseveres and chooses what is right, the turning point of his journey to his destiny happens. God changes his name from Jacob (deceivers) to Israel (triumphant with God). His persistence on his encounter with God gave him the full right of blessing for him and all his descendants (Gen 32:22-30). The character of persistence in God is proven right in this story. God requires persistence for him to give his blessings to his chosen one.

Sharing: Question and Answer

(The BG leader should be a good facilitator of questions, allow the members to express their opinions on each question, ask 2 -3 members for each question to start discussions.)

- Question 1:** What is the difference between self-made persistence and God-made persistence?
- Question 2:** Do you believe that when God changes you it is for the good of your destiny?
- Question 3:** How can your persistence affect your family? Give examples of your experiences.

Sharing: Supporting Verses

(BG leader can ask 1-2 members to read and give their opinion on these support verses on the topic.)

(Romans 2:7, 1 Thessalonians 5:15)

Sharing: Conclusion and Opinion

(Final question to evaluate the learning of members.)

Question: What did we learn in our Family Build Group today?

Answer: * *God-given persistence will affect us on our plan, direction, and destiny on our family.*

AGENDA 4: Joseph's Dream

TEXT: Genesis 37:1-11 (*assign a specific verse to each one to read.*)

INTRODUCTION: **BG leader should start a discussion, anybody can share his opinion.*

Can you share at least one of your most *childhood dreams*?

Sharing: Background and Commentary

(BG leader should study the background and commentary for his discussion with the group.)

Joseph the eleventh son of Israel is not just a dreamer but destined for the greatness God prepared in his life. He was envied by his brothers because their father Israel loves him so much more than them. As young as 17 years old he had a dream about the sheaves of grain (V.6), implying that his brothers will bow down to him. Then another dream about the Sun, Moon, and eleven stars bowing on him implies that even his parents will bow down on him (V.9). This created more rage among his brothers showing the truth about vision; it can only be understood by its carrier. On his journey towards his dream, Joseph went through testing to prove God's vision in his life. He was sold by his brothers as a slave in Egypt then he was tempted by Potiphar's wife and created a false accusation that put him in jail. In this entire test, God's hand is on him, building him on leadership and giving him the wisdom to interpret dreams even in jail. When the fullness of time come after interpreting the dream of the baker and the cupbearer in jail (40:1-23), he was led to Pharaoh and interpret the dreams that opens the door of his destiny

and bring out the reality of the dream he had when he was young. After waiting patiently for 13 years, he was promoted as the supreme caretaker of the whole of Egypt. With God's wisdom in leadership, he was able to manage the remaining resources and save the whole of Egypt and the world in the worst time of famine that hits the land. God promotes Joseph ahead of time to save the descendants of Israel (Gen 45:7) and the fulfillment of Joseph's dream happens in (Gen 46 -47). This story proves that nobody can hinder God's destiny in your life and your family. When God promises something, he will surely bring it to completion.

Sharing: Question and Answer

(The BG leader should be a good facilitator of questions, allow the members to express their opinions on each question, ask 2 -3 members for each question to start discussions.)

- Question 1:** Do you believe that God can speak to you in dreams? Why?
- Question 2:** Do you experience envying someone because of their dream?
What did you do to overcome?
- Question 3:** What do you think you need to do to be a blessing to your family like Joseph?

Sharing: Supporting Verses

(BG leader can ask 1-2 members to read and give their opinion on these support verses on the topic.)

(Acts 2:17)

Sharing: Conclusion and Opinion

(Final question to evaluate the learning of members.)

Question: What did we learn in our Family Build Group today?

Answer: ** Most of the time our dream can bring us to our destiny when God moves.*

AGENDA 5: Noah's Obedience

TEXT: Genesis 6:9-22 (*assign a specific verse to each one to read.*)

INTRODUCTION: **BG leader should start a discussion, anybody can share his opinion.*

Rate yourself from 1 to 5 on this issue of character, 1 is the lowest, and 5 is the highest.

You can easily obey. ____ Why?

You are happy when obeying. ____ Why?

Sharing: Background and Commentary

(BG leader should study the background and commentary for his discussion with the group.)

Noah was a righteous man walking faithfully with God together with his 3 children Shem, Ham, and Japheth (V.9). These days the people of the earth were so corrupted and violent because of sin. God regretted that he created men because of their wickedness and every inclination of their mind and heart is sin (V.5-6). The situation is uncontrollable and God decided to pour out his judgment upon the face of the earth by destroying both men and earth (V.13). God commanded Noah to build an arc with complete specifications (V.14-16). Without any experience in naval architecture and engineering but through God's wisdom and intervention he built an arc out of obedience to God (V. 22). People are mocking and laughing at him as he declares the coming judgment from God and creating an arc. Forty days and forty nights will rain from heaven. Remember at this moment they don't

even know what rain is. The whole world has never experienced water coming from the sky. The waters flooded the earth for 150 days and after this, a new covenant was established by God to Men (Gen 9:9). This story gives us a very clear picture of the utmost obedience by Noah to God that saves and brought blessings to his family (Gen 8:21-22).

Sharing: Question and Answer

(The BG leader should be a good facilitator of questions, allow the members to express their opinions on each question, ask 2 -3 members for each question to start discussions.)

Question 1: What are your struggles in obedience? How did you help yourself to overcome?

Question 2: If you are in the place of Noah, do you think you will do the same obedience?

Question 3: Can you share your personal experience that you did obedience and what happen?

Sharing: Supporting Verses

(BG leader can ask 1-2 members to read and give their opinion on these support verses on the topic.)

(Romans 2:7, 1 Thessalonians 5:15)

Sharing: Conclusion and Opinion

(Final question to evaluate the learning of members.)

Question: What did we learn in our Family Build Group today?

Answer: ** Our obedience to GOD will give us a blessing to our family.*

AGENDA 6: Joshua's Loyal Leadership

TEXT: Joshua 24:1-15 (*assign a specific verse to each one to read.*)

INTRODUCTION: **BG leader should start a discussion, anybody can share his opinion.*

What is the meaning of this quotation for you?

"LOYALTY IS THE START OF BEING FAITHFUL."

Sharing: Background and Commentary

(BG leader should study the background and commentary for his discussion with the group.)

Joshua was a man who was transformed by God from being fearful to fearless. He was given the wisdom to lead the Israelites as a nation after Moses. His leadership faces the challenge to conquer and occupy the land Canaan. This is the stage where God's people are in God's land, yet there is a struggle to live up to their covenant with God. This is a test of leadership to subdivide the possessed land to the 12 tribes of Israel in the midst of resistance. In this chapter 24, Joshua gathers all the people in Shechem and gives his final speech leading all Israelites to renew their commitment to the important covenant relationship with God. The famous verse 15 stresses his leadership to his family "as for me and my house we will serve the Lord." He is emphasizing that all their pains and suffering in the past were brought about by worshipping other gods – the sin of IDOLATRY. In (v14) he mentioned "fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods of your ancestors worshiped."

Joshua's leadership is encouraging every family to be faithful in serving and loving God with all of their heart. This is also the challenge in our time, to lead our own family to a covenant relationship with God. This material will help you teach and encourage your family to move closer to God especially in these tough times. God is calling more Joshua's in our time in leading the family to the purpose and plan of God.

Sharing: Question and Answer

(The BG leader should be a good facilitator of questions, allow the members to express their opinions on each question, ask 2 -3 members for each question to start discussions.)

- Question 1:** Do you think loyalty to GOD is important in life? Why?
- Question 2:** What is your best definition of idolatry? What do you think are the dangers of it?
- Question 3:** Can you share some of your specific plans on serving the Lord?

Sharing: Supporting Verses

(BG leader can ask 1-2 members to read and give their opinion on these support verses on the topic.)

(Psalm 12:1 NIV)

Sharing: Conclusion and Opinion

(Final question to evaluate the learning of members.)

Question: What did we learn in our Family Build Group today?

Answer: ** Idolatry brings disaster in life but loyalty to God brings favor.*

AGENDA 7: Moses' Temper

TEXT: Numbers 20:6-13 (*assign a specific verse to each one to read.*)

INTRODUCTION: **BG leader should start a discussion, anybody can share his opinion.*

What do you think are the **primary causes** of your anger?

Sharing: Background and Commentary

(BG leader should study the background and commentary for his discussion with the group.)

Moses was a man born in Hebrew and raised by God's calling and experience in leadership. His name (Mosheh) means "draw out" given by Pharaoh's daughter who saves him from the Nile (Exodus 2:10). God showed himself to him in the desert through the burning bush and called him to be the deliverer of his people out from Egypt (Exodus. 3:1-4:17). After the ten plagues that melted the heart of Pharaoh, Moses led the Exodus of the Israelites out of Egypt and miraculously cross the Red Sea. A journey to the desert for 40 years led 603, 550 men over twenty years old plus the ancestral tribe of Levites not counting the elderly ones after the first census (Numbers 1:1-47). Moses felt the hardships and challenges of leading the constant murmuring and complaint of people. He says "I am not able to bear all these people alone because it's too heavy for me." (Num. 11:14) God was with him by giving wisdom and strength; he received the mandate of teaching the 10 commandments on Mount Sinai, 40 years of wandering in the desert witnessing the ups and downs of the faith of people in God. Moses made his failure on the

test of obedience losing his self-control in our story. The command is to take the staff but speak to the rock and God will let the water come out of it. Losing his patience, he says “Listen, you rebels, must bring you water from this rock?” He raised his arms and struck the rock twice with his staff. He made a mistake that removes the privileges he had to see and experience the Promised Land. Moses went with the Lord within the sight of the Promised Land on Mount Nebo. Leadership ordained by God In family, church, or any organization requires complete trust and patience. Losing one’s temper in a crucial situation can remove all the privileges you have worked out for years. Be patient and have self-control in every situation.

Sharing: Question and Answer

(The BG leader should be a good facilitator of questions, allow the members to express their opinions on each question, ask 2 -3 members for each question to start discussions.)

- Question 1:** What are your struggles in controlling your temper? How are you helping yourself?
- Question 2:** Do you have a similar experience like Moses that you lost your patience and you also lost your privilege?
- Question 3:** Give some suggestions for your family on how to overcome uncontrolled anger? Base on the fruit of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:22.

Sharing: Supporting Verses

(BG leader can ask 1-2 members to read and give their opinion on these support verses on the topic.)

(Proverbs 14:17, Galatians 5:23. Ephesians 4:26)

Sharing: Conclusion and Opinion

(Final question to evaluate the learning of members.)

Question: What did we learn in our Family Build Group today?

Answer: * Losing one's temper in a crucial situation can remove all the privileges you have had for years.

AGENDA 8: Jessie's Legacy

TEXT: 1 Samuel 16:10-13 (*assign a specific verse to each one to read.*)

INTRODUCTION: **BG leader should start a discussion, anybody can share his opinion.*

Question: If you will share, give at least 1 or 2 of your personal dream legacy for your family?

Sharing: Background and Commentary

(BG leader should study the background and commentary for his discussion with the group.)

God ask Prophet Samuel to go to the house of Jesse to anoint the one chosen for Israel. Jesse is the son of Ohed and the grandson of Boaz and Ruth. He was blessed with eight sons with an evident physical qualification. He presented Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah, and all seven sons to Samuel as he thought physically qualified. In (V6-7) when Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stand here before the Lord." But the Lord responded he is not looking at how people look at the outside appearance but he looks at the heart. Then finally he presented the 8th son David coming from tending the sheep. He was described on (V12) glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then God said to Samuel "Rise up and anoint him; this is the one." Here we can see a story of simple father Jesse who has faith and belief in God. Blessed with good and gifted children, it probably never came into his mind that one day from his lineage will come the biggest legacy of his life. A son named David will be chosen as King of Israel.

You can never look down on God's plan and purpose in your life. God's own "Kairos" moment (season and time) will give you the best legacy of your life as you believe and submit everything into his will.

Sharing: Question and Answer

(The BG leader should be a good facilitator of questions, allow the members to express their opinions on each question, ask 2 -3 members for each question to start discussions.)

Question 1: Do you desire to have a legacy for your family? Why?

Question 2: How do you explain this phrase; "God of turn around."?

Question 3: What preparations do you need to do in your life to have that legacy that you desire for your family?

Sharing: Supporting Verses

(BG leader can ask 1-2 members to read and give their opinion on these support verses on the topic.)

(Proverbs 13:22, Proverbs 17:2)

Sharing: Conclusion and Opinion

(Final question to evaluate the learning of members.)

Question: What did we learn in our Family Build Group today?

Answer: * *God is the One who can give us a lasting legacy in our family.*

AGENDA 9: David's Humility

TEXT: Psalm 51:10-12 (*assign a specific verse to each one to read.*)

INTRODUCTION: **BG leader should start a discussion, anybody can share his opinion.*

Question: In your opinion what is the evident lifestyle of a person who has **true humility**? Give at least one or two example.

Sharing: Background and Commentary

(BG leader should study the background and commentary for his discussion with the group.)

King David the 2nd king of ancient Israel whose name means "beloved," after King Saul's failure in (1 Sam. 13:13-14) God declared that he had sought a man after his own heart which is David. He has a humble beginning as a shepherd tending the flocks, the 8th son, and was not the first choice of his father Jesse but the chosen of God for the anointing. He had evident skills of courage in battle mentioned in (1 Sam. 17:34-37). He displayed a complete reliance and trust in the name of the Lord, the God of Israel on his first major victory over the Philistine's champion Goliath (1 Sam.17:45). After this major victory, it gives him fame, confidence, and trust of people, comparing him to King Saul. In (chapter 18:7) People are rejoicing and saying Saul has slain his thousands and David his tens of thousands. This situation made Saul very angry and intimidated with David, it reaches the point that he wants to kill David. In all of these struggles in the hand of King Saul, David responded with a complete trust

in God, humility, and dedication. He inquired about God's will every time he needs to make a decision. David went through major victories and his fame continues to increase, but in the middle of it, David was defeated by a major sin of adultery with Bathsheba and arranging the murder of her husband Uriah the Hittite. In 2 Sam. 12:1-7 a prophet Nathan rebukes David by showing him the sin he has committed. In our text Psalm 51:10-12 is the emotional repentance and expression of King David on all the sins he has committed to God. Humility will always bring repentance and repentance will always bring you deliverance.

Sharing: Question and Answer

(The BG leader should be a good facilitator of questions, allow the members to express their opinions on each question, ask 2 -3 members for each question to start discussions.)

- Question 1:** What is true humility? And how this true humility helped King David?
- Question 2:** If you are given a chance to experience your personal victory, how will you handle this victory together with humility?
- Question 3:** Can you share your personal struggles in the area of true humility. How are you helping yourself to maintain this kind of humility?

Sharing: Supporting Verses

(BG leader can ask 1-2 members to read and give their opinion on these support verses on the topic.)

(Philippians 2:3, Proverbs 11:2, James 4:6)

Sharing: Conclusion and Opinion

(Final question to evaluate the learning of members.)

Question: What did we learn in our Family Build Group today?

Answer: * Humility will always bring repentance and repentance will always bring you deliverance.

AGENDA 10: Solomon's Pitfalls

TEXT: 1 Kings 11:1-11 (*assign a specific verse to each one to read.*)

INTRODUCTION: **BG leader should start a discussion, anybody can share his opinion.*

Question: Can you share one of the craziest things that you've done in your life?

Sharing: Background and Commentary

(BG leader should study the background and commentary for his discussion with the group.)

King Solomon the son of King David to Bathsheba started with a good heart that attracts God to grant him wisdom. This wisdom gives him a discerning heart to govern and to distinguish between what is right and wrong, and administer justice (1 Kings 3:9-13). God also gave him what he did not ask – both wealth and honor, so in his lifetime no other kings can equal him. This wisdom and discerning heart give him the ability to regulate his life, the decision in accordance with God's will. But all of a sudden, a shift happen that start all the pitfalls of King Solomon, he was overwhelmed by everything around him that changes his attitude towards God (1Kings 11:9-11). He started to obey his own desires, his marriages became a disastrous denial of God, (1Kings 11:1-5) He personally experiences the negative effect on his Kingdom when he did not seek and obey God's commandments. Here you can see a man who has a good beginning and receives wisdom from God, but when he started to give in to the

temptation of disobedience. He lost everything that he started. Obedience produces wisdom and blessing.

Sharing: Question and Answer

(The BG leader should be a good facilitator of questions, allow the members to express their opinions on each question, ask 2 -3 members for each question to start discussions.)

- Question 1:** Did you experience the temptation of disregarding God in your decision?
What did you do to overcome?
- Question 2:** How do you handle temptation in your life? Do you see God's grace of forgiveness in all your failure?
- Question 3:** Can you share your personal experience about God giving you wisdom on your decision?

Sharing: Supporting Verses

(BG leader can ask 1-2 members to read and give their opinion on these support verses on the topic.)

(James 1:14, Matthew 26:41)

Sharing: Conclusion and Opinion

(Final question to evaluate the learning of members.)

Question: What did we learn in our Family Build Group today?

Answer: * Obedience produces a pearl of constant wisdom and blessing.