

**SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**  
GENESIS 12:10-13:4 • JANUARY 24, 2021

*The*  
P A T R I A R C H S  
ABRAHAM

ABRAHAM'S BROKENNESS AND REPENTANCE

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WARM UP

Think back over your last week. What is one specific thing/person/event you are thankful for? (big or small) What was it about this specific thing/person/event that created thankfulness?

1. Mike made the observation that Abraham faced a crossroads moment--to trust God or choose his own way of self-preservation. All of us face similar types of daily tests to trust God. Have someone in the group read Genesis 12:10-13:4 aloud and then watch the short 6-minute video from The Bible Project on "The Test": <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/the-test/>. As you listen and watch, what stands out to you the most about this idea of "tests" we all face to trust God or put our hope elsewhere?
2. Read 1 John 1:7-9 together. Discuss as a group how living in the light (confessing to one another and walking out ongoing repentance) is hard for people to do in community. What are the fears? What are the lies we are prone to believe? Next, discuss what it would be like to be in safe community with people, what John calls "fellowship," where you could confess sin, walk out daily repentance, and embrace the Gospel together? Talk about what it would take for your group to move towards that.
3. Oftentimes, our broken choices and patterns, like Abraham's, come out of good desires. We seek to meet these in our own ways rather than trusting in God's provision. For Abraham, a good desire for protection and security led to lying and dishonoring his wife. Here is a list of good desires that God has hardwired in every human: Approval, significance, protection, meaning, affirmation, belonging, security, comfort, being known. Pick one of these good desires that you are most prone to try to meet in your own way when squeezed by life. What actions have you taken, and how did that affect you and those around you? (Example: Approval-- "I will withhold speaking the truth to my children because I need their approval to feel okay. Instead, I get resentful and passive aggressive.") As people share, be careful not to try to fix one another. You are learning to walk in the light and trying to fix one another will kill the growth of a safe community.

CONCLUDING CHALLENGE

Repentance means to change your mind/direction. This week commit to daily praying about the one desire you identified above. Ask God to help you trust Him for the next 24 hours with His ways and not your own. Romans 12:1-- Extra mile: Reach out to someone in your Life Group this week. Ask for prayer in this area as you turn from sin and toward Christ together.