

INTRO

- Do you exercise? Why or why not? What's your favourite way to exercise?

Faith is fundamental to following Jesus. This series explores faith as a journey and how our faith, like a muscle, can and must be exercised to grow and strengthen.

READ

Gen 12:1-5, Heb 11:8-10

REFLECT & RESPOND

The NT uses Abraham as the model of true faith. Yet, he was far from perfect. Abraham's journey of faith resembles our own, including times of obedience and blessing and times of failures and setbacks. Regardless, he lived by faith, and faith grows by hearing the Word of God and acting on the Word of God. God initiates through his word and action, and we respond by taking a step of faith. So what does stepping out in faith require?

1. Stepping Away

For Abram, the step of faith in obedience to God required him to step away from his country and family. Tim Keller comments, "Abraham didn't just live life. Life didn't just happen to him. He didn't just go with the flow of events."

It's easy and natural to want to cling to our comfort zone, places of identity, security, and control. But a step of faith always requires us to step away from something meaningful.

Qu: Consider what God called Abram to leave: He had an established life, a family, and a responsibility to his father's household. How would you respond if God called you to do something similar?

2. Stepping Toward

"So Abram went, as the Lord had told him." (v4)

Abram stepped away from everything he had known and stepped towards the unknown. Now, a lot of people think that faith means taking a blind leap. That's not biblical faith. Faith is stepping out on what God has revealed to be true and living like it's true.

By faith, Abram stepped toward the unknown with confidence and trust in what he *did* know: God has spoken and is to be trusted.

Every person lives by faith, not by sight. None of us knows fully what tomorrow will bring. The more important question is, are our source/s of faith trustworthy?

Qu: What are some examples of the ways people live by faith? Faith in what? What does it mean to you to live by faith in God?

Stepping Out in Trust

The journey of faith is a series of steps in trusting God. How can we emulate Abram's faith?

- What has God spoken and promised (hint: he's given us way more than Abram ever got!)?
- Is God trustworthy? The clearest evidence of God's faithfulness and trustworthiness toward us is to look at Jesus.

We have the Written Word and Living Word to help us step out in faith.

Qu: Is there an area in your life where God might be prompting you to take a step of faith?

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray that our trust in God would be stirred to greater levels, and that we'd provoke one another to live by faith.
- Pray for one another in response to the last question.