

# Altared

## *Scripture and Background Information for September 24-30.*

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Abraham is known as one of the fathers of our faith, but his faith was not perfect. At moments, he believed in God wholeheartedly and was willing to be incredibly obedient to God while, in others, he let fear and selfishness drive his actions. In this series, we will study the life of Abraham, all the successes and failures, to see how we may relate to his relationship with God. Ultimately, we hope to learn how each of us can direct the devotion of our lives to God, so that we allow Him to determine the destination of our journeys.

### **Background for Genesis 13:5-18:**

In Genesis 13, Abram is looking for the home that God has promised him. As he is journeying back through the land, his nephew Lot is with him. But strife comes up between Abram and Lot's men. Even though they had other enemies to watch out for around them, they were fighting each other so they decided to split up. Lot chose to go to the land to the East which seemed to be more fertile, and Abram took his family and possessions to the West.

In this split we see that Abram and Lot have very different motivations for their lives. Lot saw the land was more fertile and seemed to not care that he would have to go away from the presence of God to the East, even though the Lord had led them this far. It seemed like the most logical place to settle, but all it would do would lead Lot and his family to trouble. On the contrary, Abram was still focused on the Lord's promise for his life and the life of his descendants. So, he goes the opposite way. And after getting to the place where God was leading Abram and having God reiterate His promise to bless him with descendants, he was moved to worship. Once again, Abram built an altar to the Lord. A faithful response to the God who was proving to be faithful to him.

### Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. What attributes of God's character are revealed through this story and His interaction with Abram?
2. When faced with a moment of fear and scarcity, Lot reacted by doing whatever he could to get the most for himself while Abram responded with faith and generosity. Whenever you are faced with various forms of fear and scarcity in your life, do you typically respond like Lot or Abram? Why?
3. How can we learn to respond more naturally to fear and scarcity like Abram does in this story? How can we encourage each other to have faith in times of fear and scarcity?

\*Check back in with your groups about the rhythm of silence and solitude. Ask how their times in silence and solitude have been and what God has been showing them in those moments.