

# Altared

## *Scripture and Background Information for October 29-November 4.*

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 Hebrews 11:8-19:**

On the surface, Abraham's legacy could be described as complicated. It seems like a mixed bag of successes and failures that would lead us to view Abraham's legacy with caution. But even though his life was full of triumphs and trials, faithfulness and faithlessness, and obedience and disobedience, Abraham is still held in a high regard to this day. So how does this person with such an inconsistent past become someone who is revered by Christians and touted as an example of what strong faith looks like?

Hebrews 11:8-19 helps us answer this question. It gives us a summary of some of the main parts of Abraham's story. While there are many more stories to consider, in all of these, God is shown to be faithful and the one who Abraham was seeking. We don't admire Abraham because his faith was perfect but because the One who his life pointed to is perfectly faithful. Abraham's life is full of complexity, yet it reveals qualities that are crucial to our understanding of who God is. Therefore, even in his imperfection, Abraham leaves us with a lasting legacy of faith because the trajectory of his life was pointed to God. For thousands of years, the faith that Abraham placed in the God who is faithful has been passed down from generation to generation and we are still benefiting from it today.

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

1. What role has God played in helping Abraham leave a lasting legacy? What has God revealed about Himself through Abraham's life?
2. What stands out to you about Abraham's legacy? What legacies have been left to you? What do you want your legacy to be?
3. Who are you leaving your legacy to? What practical steps can you take to leave a lasting legacy for the next generation?

\*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.