

Discussion Guide: The Resurrection Life

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death. Hebrews 11:17 & 19

February 1, 2004: "The Resurrection Life" by Joe Bartemus, Pastor Adult Ministries at College Park Church. Pastor Joe delivered a dynamic message on the Resurrection Life from Genesis 22 and provided several application points to explore how we might practically live in accordance with the Resurrected Life of Christ. Cross-references were also given to bridge this rich, Old Testament narrative with New Testament teaching.

Discussion Guide

1. Resurrection faith supports us in times of trials, because God is working (v 1).
(xref: Romans 8:28 and Philippians 3:1-11).

Q. God tested Abraham by calling him to embark on a journey where Abraham did not know the outcome. Is there anything going on in your life at this time that is similar to Abraham's calling? Do you trust God even though you don't know the outcome? How can the promise of the Resurrection impact your level of trust?

2. Resurrection faith calls for radical obedience, because God is working (v 2-3).
(xref: Hebrews 11:17, 1 Corinthians 15:30-32)

Q. Is there anything in your life that you are unwilling to embark on because of a lack of trust in God's Resurrection Power? Is there any complacency in your life due to being satisfied with the status quo, comfort zones, etc.?

3. Resurrection faith gives the power to say "no" to sin, because God is working (v 4-9).
(xref: Romans. 6:4)

Q. Are there any "I can't's" that remain in your life? In specifics, how does the Resurrection Power of God impact your "I can't's"?

4. Resurrection faith gives VICTORY and purpose in this life, because God is working.
(1 Corinthians 15:58)

Q. Pastor Joe highlighted how big the "But" is in Gen. 22:11. This is a time for the Flock Group to share "Instead of" testimonies. Instead of having to slay his own son, God provided a scapegoat, a ram caught in the thicket. In order to encourage each other, share some testimonies of times when God gave you victory over fear and anxiety and demonstrated the power of His Resurrection by causing something unexpectedly good to happen "INSTEAD OF" what you feared.

For additional study and reflection, Pastor Joe mentioned encourages us to...

Read Genesis 21 for the contrast and comparisons between Hagar/Ishmael and Abraham/Isaac, John 3:16 for the similarities of God the Father/His Son Jesus Christ and Abraham/Isaac, and John 11 for the raising of Lazarus from the dead. He also recommended two books: "The Resurrection of the Son of God" by N.T. Wright and "Don't Waste your Life" by John Piper.