

# Sunday School Devotional (Middle School)

## “Radical Faith”

Sunday, May 31st

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### *Beginning Prayer* 🙏

Hello middle schoolers! I am happy to bring you a great lesson that hopefully encourages and challenges your faith. Go ahead and find a comfy spot, and get ready for today's lesson. Before we begin, let's take time to pray and talk to God.

Seriously, pause and talk to God about your current relationship with him and also ask him to remove all distractions from you for the next couple of minutes and clearly reveal his truth to you...

Now that our hearts and minds are ready for today's lesson, let's begin by making sure we have a bible, and if you want to, feel free to take notes. As you go through the lesson, use the little icons to help you on what we are doing or talking about (ex: 📖 means read).

### *Introduction* 📄

Today we are going to discuss faith. Now faith is a big topic, and is mentioned several times throughout both the Old and the New Testament. Sometimes in the Bible, we have people who show great faith. They demonstrate their faith in trusting God about things that would be crazy... aka, “Radical Faith”. One of the examples of radical faith is found in Genesis with Abraham and Issac. I'm sure you know this story, so let's go ahead and get into it!

### *Passage* 📖

Go ahead and get out your bible, turn to Genesis chapter 22, and read verses 1-19. While you read, think of the following...

- 1) Consider Abraham's point of view. What do you think is going through his mind at this time? Consider Issac's point of view. What do you think is going through his mind at this time?
- 2) Consider the relationship between Abraham and God and how much Abraham trusts and has faith in God.

## Notes ➡

So let's discuss what we just read. God asked Abraham to go up to a mountain, and build an altar to sacrifice his son, and Abraham did it. What? Wow! I mean just Wow! Abraham walked all the way to the top of the mountain to build an altar to sacrifice his son. What a test of his faith!

From the beginning of the story, we see that God is willing to use anything (even pain) to strengthen our faith. Why? Because our faith is the most important thing to him. If we don't have faith in him, then we don't have a relationship in him. If we think about this situation, every test that we face in life, every tough situation, all the pain we go through will either weaken our faith or strengthen it.

How do we pass through tough situations in life? Well, how did Noah survive the flood? How did Jonah finally decide to go to Nineveh? How did Moses speak in front of Pharaoh? How did Paul face preaching in the most dangerous areas of the World in his time? Why did Peter decide to hop out of a boat to walk on water? (And the list goes on...) Radical Faith! All of these men are in the Bible and they all trusted, and had a radical type faith in the Lord, I'm sure it wasn't easy to have that faith, but I know they look back on those times and are so grateful they chose faith.

The more we trust in God, the more we will focus on our relationship with him. And when we do that, we move closer to God and resist the devil's temptations (James 4:7) and persevere through life's trials (Romans 5:3-5). So, next time you are in a tough situation, don't go down the path of fear and doubt. We were not given a spirit that does that! (Just read 1st Timothy 1:7) Have a Radical Faith! The Bible is evidence that we can trust Him! So this week, let's seek His guidance, and have radical faith, He can be trusted!

## Discussion Questions

Consider answering these 3 questions...

- 1) What do you do when you are caught up in a tough situation?

2) What can you do if you are worried or stressed about a situation?

3) What situations do you struggle with most? Which situations cause us to fear the worst, or lose faith in Jesus? Pray to God about these situations.

### *Prayer*

Let's close this lesson with a time of prayer. In your closing prayer, talk to God about these three things...

- God, help me to have faith and trust in you through situations
- I pray that I would overcome fear and doubt, and have a Radical Faith
- I pray that I would remember that you are there with me through everything

I hope that your quarantine has been wonderful so far. I pray that you will have Radical faith like others to face your troubles and struggles. Have a great rest of your summer, I pray you would continue to grow and have trust and faith in the Lord!

### *Read on your Own (Optional)*

This part is totally optional. If you want to go deeper into the lesson, then let's do it! Read the two passages below and compare how they reflect our lesson today!

- **Phillipians 4:6-7** - Do not worry about anything, but pray to God about it. He is with you
- **James 1:5-6** - If you need help with something, ask God and have faith in him. Do not doubt, this can lead to chaos, fear, and can cause you to lose faith in God.
- **Hebrews 10:23** - Be firm and strong in your faith, because God is faithful and keeps his promises