

LifeGroup Leader Guide

We're spending the next five weeks with Abraham. Each week has two pages: a leader page for whoever is facilitating — a suggested breakdown of the group time, questions for when the room goes quiet, what to watch for — and the group page from the guidebook that everyone is working .

Use this as a resource to help facilitate conversations with your group. Prepare your group before hand with passages or questions to think through. We've also included the prayer calendar at the end of this packet for you to reference

THE SERIES AT A GLANCE

WEEK ONE	The Invitation	Genesis 12:1-4
WEEK TWO	The Promise	Genesis 15:1-6
WEEK THREE	The Fulfillment	Genesis 21:1-7
WEEK FOUR	The Sacrifice	Genesis 22:1-14
WEEK FIVE	The Legacy	Hebrews 11:8-12

The Invitation

GENESIS 12:1-4 • SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

WHAT YOU ARE AIMING AT

Every person should leave able to name one specific comfort zone God is asking them to leave. Not a category — a specific thing.

HOW THE CONVERSATION COULD GO

- 0:00** Welcome and the two discussion starters. The second one — what “all in” brings to mind — tells you what people are carrying into this series.
- 0:10** Have someone else read Genesis 12:1-4 out loud. Let the silence linger before anyone talks.
- 0:12** Work through the four discussion questions. You will not need all four to have a good night. Focus your conversation around questions 1 & 4 and use 2 & 3 to help people build context.
- 0:45** Prayer focus. Pray for each other by name, out loud, using the actual comfort zones people named.
- 0:55** Point people to the On Your Own page and the Family Moment for the week before you close.

WHEN THE ROOM GOES QUIET

- Q1** If it stays abstract, make it concrete: “What did you almost say and then decide not to?” Or go first yourself.
- Q2** Ask for a story from years ago rather than right now. People may open up about 2011 before they will talk about this week.
- Q3** Push past “read the Bible and pray.” Ask what it looked like on an actual weekday.
- Q4** This is the question the whole series rests on. Let the silence linger for a bit. Remind people: this is about more than a financial commitment. “How can we become better disciples through All In?”

WATCH FOR

- Nobody has to talk about money tonight. If it comes up, let it — but do not steer there. We want to make sure people seriously consider and pray about their commitment
- Abram was seventy-five. If your group skews older, say that out loud. This is not a young person’s story.
- One dramatic answer can make everyone else’s step feel small. Explain that leaving a comfort zone looks different in every circumstance and story.

BEFORE YOU GATHER

- Read Genesis 12 twice this week and answer question four yourself, in writing. You cannot lead a room past where you have gone.
- Text everyone and make sure they’re excited for group! Five weeks is short, and week one sets the tone for the rest of it.

The Invitation

READ TOGETHER

Open your bibles to Genesis 12:1-4 — The Call of Abram — and read it aloud before you work through anything below.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What's the biggest move you've ever made — a city, a job, a relationship — and what finally made you say yes?
- When you hear the phrase “all in,” what's the first thing that comes to mind?

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS

- 1 What comfort zones is God currently inviting you to leave?
- 2 When have you sensed God calling you into something uncertain? How did you respond?
- 3 What does it practically look like to trust God's voice in everyday life?
- 4 What would going all in look like for you in this season?

PRAYER FOCUS

Ask God to make you willing before you are certain. Pray for the courage to take a step you cannot yet see the end of — and pray that for one another by name.

ON YOUR OWN

Write down one comfort zone God may be asking you to leave in this season. Not the whole journey — just the first step, and when you'll take it.

The Promise

GENESIS 15:1-6 • SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

WHAT YOU ARE AIMING AT

People should leave with permission to say the honest thing to God. Abram complained, and it did not disqualify him — it started the conversation.

HOW THE CONVERSATION COULD GO

- 0:00** Starters. The first one — what you are still waiting on — opens the door to the whole night. Allow time for people to think and respond.
- 0:10** Read Genesis 15:1-6, then read verse 2 and 6 again. Those verses show the tension and the trust we want to explore this week.
- 0:12** Work through the four questions. 1 & 3 are the heart of this week.
- 0:45** Prayer focus. Pray honestly, out loud. Model it first and keep yours short.
- 0:55** Send them to the On Your Own page — five years of God's faithfulness, written down.

WHEN THE ROOM GOES QUIET

- Q1** Go first. If you name a real promise you struggle with, they will too. If you name a safe one, they will match that instead.
- Q2** Keep this at the level of trust, not amounts: "What would you do differently if you were certain God keeps His word?"
- Q3** Some people have never said a doubt out loud in a church setting. Thank the first person who does.
- Q4** Abram believed before anything changed. Ask what believing looks like when the circumstances remain exactly the same.

WATCH FOR

- Grief. Questions about waiting on God invite heavy responses: miscarriage, diagnosis, marital issues, a kid who left. Slow down. Do not fix it and do not move on quickly.
- The urge to answer a doubt with a verse. Let the doubt be fully spoken before anyone tidies it up.
- People who are just beginning their faith journey. They may have no category for talking to God this way. Say plainly that it is allowed.

BEFORE YOU GATHER

- Decide ahead of time what you are willing to admit you are still waiting on. Have one real thing ready.
- If something heavy came up last week, follow up before Sunday rather than in front of the group.

The Promise

READ TOGETHER

Open your bibles to Genesis 15:1–6 — The Covenant — and read it aloud before you work through anything below

DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What's something you're still waiting on that you'd rather not wait on any longer?
- Who is someone whose word you trust completely? What earned that trust?

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS

- 1 What promises of God are you currently struggling to believe?
- 2 How does confidence in God's promises change the way we approach giving?
- 3 Where do you need to bring your hopes, your doubts, and your waiting before God?
- 4 What would it look like to respond to God's promise the way Abram did?

PRAYER FOCUS

Bring your honest questions to God the way Abram did. Pray for faith that holds on when the evidence hasn't arrived yet, and thank him for promises already kept.

ON YOUR OWN

Count the stars. List the evidences of God's faithfulness in your own life over the last five years — then read the list back slowly.

The Fulfillment

GENESIS 21:1-7 • SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

WHAT YOU ARE AIMING AT

Hold two truths in the same room: God has already done more than we noticed, and some of us are still waiting.

HOW THE CONVERSATION COULD GO

- 0:00** Starters. The question about laughing out loud is not filler — it sets the tone for a night about joy.
- 0:10** Read Genesis 21:1-7. Twenty-five years passed between the promise and this paragraph; say that out loud.
- 0:12** Four questions. Spend real time on question one before you move on.
- 0:45** Prayer focus. Thank God by name and by story for what He has done in this church, then ask for patience where people are still waiting.
- 0:55** Advance Commitment Night is tonight at 6pm — anyone ready to commit early can turn a card in then.

WHEN THE ROOM GOES QUIET

- Q1** Ask for the specific, not the category: “What are you waiting on that you have stopped mentioning to people?”
- Q2** If this goes abstract, tell a story instead. Abraham and Sarah waited twenty-five years for Isaac.
- Q3** Ask what people do on the days they do not feel it. Practices will preach better than feelings here.
- Q4** This is where the series turns toward commitment. Do not rush it and do not skip it.

WATCH FOR

- Answered-prayer stories land hard on the person whose prayer was not answered. Hold both without resolving it for them.
- Sarah laughed twice and the text scolds her for neither. Give people room to be doubtful and glad at the same time.
- Comparison. The size of what someone is still waiting on is not a measure of their faith.

BEFORE YOU GATHER

- Write down one thing God has done in your group this year and be ready to name it out loud.
- Key dates coming up: Advance Commitment Night October 18, Prayer Gathering October 28, Commitment Sunday November 1.

The Fulfillment

READ TOGETHER

Open your bibles to Genesis 21:1–7 — The Birth of Isaac — and read it aloud before you work through anything below.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What's the longest you've ever waited for something that mattered?
- When was the last time something made you laugh out loud with joy?

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS

- 1 Where are you currently in a waiting season with God?
- 2 How does the fulfillment of God's promise to Abrahamaam encourage your faith?
- 3 What does it mean to remain faithful while you wait?
- 4 How does trusting God's timing change the way you hold your plans and your resources?

PRAYER FOCUS

Thank God specifically for what he has done in this church — by name, by story. Then ask Him for patience where you are still waiting.

ON YOUR OWN

Write down one promise God has already fulfilled in your life, and tell someone about it this week. Say it out loud, to an actual person.

The Sacrifice

GENESIS 22:1-14 • SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

WHAT YOU ARE AIMING AT

This is the week it gets specific. People should leave knowing what their Isaac is — and knowing the number they are praying about is between them and God.

HOW THE CONVERSATION COULD GO

- 0:00** Starters. “What do you hold on to most tightly” is the whole night in one question.
- 0:10** Read Genesis 22:1-14, all the way through verse 14. Do not stop at the knife.
- 0:12** Work through the four questions. Leave time for people to pray through question 4. Don't share numbers, but talk about why we are making a commitment.
- 0:45** Prayer focus. Pray for Commitment Sunday — for a number, and for the courage to write it down.
- 0:55** Encourage everyone to work through pages 34-40 in the guidebook and come ready to make a commitment on Sunday.

WHEN THE ROOM GOES QUIET

- Q1** Isaac was not a possession, he was the promise. Ask what people would be most afraid to lose control over.
- Q2** Keep it at the level of trust. Nobody says a dollar figure out loud.
- Q3** Reference section 11 in the guidebook (pg 44-47). Ask about which area (lifestyle, priorities, resources) could be a next step.
- Q4** Ask it, then stop talking. This is the question the whole initiative rests on.

WATCH FOR

- Amounts. If someone starts to share a number, steer gently away. No one should leave this room comparing.
- The passage is disturbing and someone will say so. That is a fair reaction. Do not get caught up in the “why would God allow...” question — focus on what Abraham learned on the mountain.
- People in a hard season. Debt or unemployment excludes no one from this. Say that out loud, and remind people of the primary goal: 100% engagement. How can we become a better disciple through our All In commitment?

BEFORE YOU GATHER

- Fill in or at least begin your own commitment worksheet before this meeting. It can be helpful to lead this one from the other side of your own decision.
- Remind the group about the All In Prayer Gathering on October 28 at 7pm.

The Sacrifice

READ TOGETHER

Open your bibles to Genesis 22:1-14 — The Binding of Isaac — and read it aloud before you work through anything below.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What's the hardest thing you've ever given away?
- What do you hold on to most tightly — and why do you think that is?

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS

- 1 What is your Isaac — the thing God may be asking you to entrust to him?
- 2 How does “the Lord will provide” change your approach to money?
- 3 What does full surrender look like in a practical, everyday sense?
- 4 What commitment is God inviting you to make this week?

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for Commitment Sunday. Ask God for a number — and for the courage to write it down.
Pray for the households in your group who are wrestling with this.

ON YOUR OWN

Pray through the gift chart and fill in your commitment worksheet before November 1. Bring it with you that morning.

The Legacy

HEBREWS 11:8-12 • SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

WHAT YOU ARE AIMING AT

Celebrate the steps. Thank God for the people who went first, and send everyone out thinking in generations instead of months.

HOW THE CONVERSATION COULD GO

- 0:00** Starters. Both are worth the time tonight — this is a celebration! Help your group dream about where God is taking our church!
- 0:10** Read Hebrews 11:8-12, then read it again slowly. It is the legacy we now share from a man who died still holding a promise.
- 0:12** Work through the four questions. One and four make the best ending.
- 0:45** Prayer focus. Pray for the people who will walk through our doors in the next two years, and thank God for those who prayed before we got here.
- 0:55** Cards can still be turned in any Sunday through Celebration Sunday, November 22.

WHEN THE ROOM GOES QUIET

- Q1** Ask for a name, not a type of person. Names personalize the conversation.
- Q2** If it stalls, ask what makes a legacy meaningful.
- Q3** Ask about one decision they would make differently with a fifty-year horizon instead of a five-year one.
- Q4** Let everybody answer this one. Go around the circle and do not skip anyone.

WATCH FOR

- Anyone who did not turn in a card this morning. No pressure and no singling out — just make sure they know it is not too late.
- The temptation to treat tonight as the finish line. The commitment starts now and runs two years.
- Someone who has been here forty years sitting next to someone in their fourth week. Both belong in this conversation.

BEFORE YOU GATHER

- Write the note from the On Your Own page yourself, and be ready to say who you wrote it to.
- Decide how your group will keep praying and growing past this All In season.

The Legacy

READ TOGETHER

Open your bibles to Hebrews 11:8-12 — The Faith of Abraham — and read it aloud before you work through anything below.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Who trusted God on your behalf before you were ever in the room?
- What do you hope is true about this church twenty years from now?

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS

- 1 Whose faith shaped yours — and what did it cost them?
- 2 What does it mean to live generously toward a future you may not see?
- 3 How does thinking in generations change what you decide today?
- 4 What do you want the next chapter of FCC's story to say about us?

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for the people who will walk through our doors in the next two years — the ones we haven't met yet. Thank God for the people who prayed for us before we were here.

ON YOUR OWN

Write a short note to someone whose faith shaped yours, and send it. If they're no longer living, write it anyway and keep it in this book. And if you haven't turned in your commitment yet, it isn't too late. Bring it any Sunday between now and Celebration Sunday, on November 22.

Prayer Calendar

Thirty-five days of praying together, from the first Sunday of the series through the week after Commitment Sunday. One moment a day — prayed out loud, if you can, with whoever is with you.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 OCT SERIES KICKOFF For our church as All In begins	5 That God would search your own heart first	6 For Rob and our staff as they lead us	7 For the 265,000 people near our doors	8 For your household, by name	9 For one person you know who is far from God	10 Thank God for the people who started this church
11 OCT That we would listen before we decide	12 For patience in the seasons of waiting	13 For FCC Kids and every volunteer who shows up	14 For FCC Students and the pressures they carry	15 For a generous heart instead of a fearful one	16 For your LifeGroup and the people in it	17 For families deciding this together
18 OCT ADVANCE COMMITMENT NIGHT 6PM For those committing early tonight	19 For everyone giving for the very first time	20 For our mission partners around the world	21 For First Steps Preschool and its families	22 For The Table and our ministry to our neighbors	23 For courage exactly where you feel fear	24 For unity across our whole church family
25 OCT For open hands with everything we hold	26 For anyone carrying financial stress right now	27 For clarity about the number God is asking of you	28 ALL IN PRAYER GATHERING 7PM That God would move as we pray together	29 For our FCC Partners and those making FCC their church home	30 For the people who will walk in as strangers	31 For our neighborhood tonight
1 NOV COMMITMENT SUNDAY For every commitment turned in today	2 Thank God for what He did yesterday	3 For anyone still deciding	4 For faithfulness across the next two years	5 For the space and the building ahead of us	6 For the kids who will grow up in this church	7 For FCC twenty years from now

Celebration Sunday • November 22

Keep praying past the last square. Together, we will celebrate all that God has done and look forward to what He will continue to do.