

# LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

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## PRAY TOGETHER

Holy Spirit, we invite you to lead our time together and open our hearts to your voice. Help us, like Abraham and Sarah, to trust your promises even when we don't see all the details, know your ultimate plans and your timing doesn't match our own. Expose the places where we've patterned our lives after the world instead of your word, and give us courage to respond in obedience. Use this conversation to strengthen our faith and to show each of us a clear next step you are calling us to take.

## ICE BREAKER

The opening video highlighted how kids help us see God with more awe, wonder and imagination. When you were a kid, what's something you believed or imagined about God that makes you smile now?

## SERMON OVERVIEW



SCAN FOR  
SERMON CLIP



SCAN FOR  
SERMON CLIP

In this week's message, Pastor CJ explores the concept of biblical faith through the lives of Abraham and Sarah, emphasizing that faith is not wishful thinking or a blank check, but rather trusting God's promises even when circumstances seem impossible. The message highlights how Abraham and Sarah lived by radical faith despite lacking many spiritual resources available to modern believers—no written Scripture, no law, no Holy Spirit indwelling, and no completed work of Christ. Yet they were commended for their faith and Abraham received the unique title of "friend of God." However, they weren't perfect—their story includes painful mistakes like the situation with Hagar that still reverberates in Middle Eastern tensions today—but God remained faithful despite their failures. This teaches us that just because something is in the Bible doesn't mean it's endorsed by the Bible, and that God works through our brokenness. The sermon challenges believers to live by faith rather than patterning themselves after the world. It also addresses the importance of Christian community in maintaining faithful living and warns against the consequences of taking matters into our own hands rather than waiting on God's timing.

## READ SCRIPTURE

### HEBREWS 11:1-19

## CONNECT RELATIONALLY

1) The sermon pointed out how Abraham and Sarah struggled with God's timing and took matters into their own hands. Where do you currently see, or have experienced, that same temptation in your own life - especially when waiting feels long or an answer from God seems uncertain? Where are you most tempted to "help God out" instead of waiting on Him?

2) Pastor CJ emphasized the importance of community, especially for families, marriages, and individuals trying to live by faith. How would you describe the communities currently shaping your life, and what influence are they having on your faith? Are they encouraging you to move in a God honoring direction?

3) Ask someone to reread Hebrews 11:1. How is faith defined? How is biblical faith different from wishful thinking, blind optimism, or a “blank check” view of God? How can we spur one another on in this type of faith (Hebrews 10:23-25)?

4) Pastor CJ stated, “we often place more weight on our preferences than on God’s promises.” How can you tell when your preferences, rather than His promises, are driving your decisions?

5) Abraham and Sarah lived by faith without many of the spiritual advantages we have today (Scripture, church community, the indwelling Spirit). What does that reveal about the nature of faith itself as outlined in Hebrews 11, and why do you think their story is still important to study today?

6) Abraham and Sarah patterned themselves after the surrounding culture in the situation with Hagar, and it backfired. What are some subtle ways believers today can drift into copying cultural solutions instead of trusting God’s way? What guardrails can be established to help prevent this?

7) Abraham is called “the friend of God.” How would you answer if asked the reason that he was called that? What would it look like for your relationship with God to move beyond obligation or routine and more fully resemble a friendship?

8) Pastor CJ ended with an invitation to “audit” our faith. What is one area in your life where you sense God is asking you to “go before He shows,” and what concrete step of obedience could you take this week?

Based on our conversation today, how is the Holy Spirit inviting me to take a next step in practical application?

I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

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Please ask each member to share their step if they have one. It is ok if you are still discerning and need time to process, pray and ponder.

Please take a few moments to ask each member to share a joy or praise and an area of concern. Ask someone to pray over these requests, and please distribute them to all group members so you may continue to intercede for one another between your meetings.

**Night of Worship-** Join together with your Northview family as we unite as a community for an evening to celebrate His Presence. A night of worship is more than a concert. It’s a sacred gathering. Join Pastor CJ and Northview Worship for an awe-filled night where the room quiets, hearts open and God meets us where we are.

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