

FAITHFUL ONE

THE PROMISE AND THE PAIN

Part 6: *Courage My Love*

APPETIZER: Oops, I Did It Again

Genesis 12

*** *Even the most faith-filled followers of God can mess up habitually.*

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!
~ The Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 10:11-13)

DINE IN: Fighting Fear with Love

Genesis 20

1. Say your sin.

James 5:16; 1 John 1:8-10

2. Live like you're vulnerable.

Matthew 5:29-30; 18:22; 1 Corinthians 10:12;
Philippians 3:3; 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:22

3. Think about your sin's effect on others.

1 Corinthians 13:5

4. Don't confuse acceptance and agreement, grace and approval.

Romans 2:4; 8:28; 2 Corinthians 6:2; Titus 2:12

5. Remember who and Whose you are.

- A New Creation of God (Rom 6-8; 2 Cor 5:17; Ezekiel 36:26)
- Saints of God (Ephesians 1:1; 1 Corinthians 1:2; etc.)
- Prophets of God (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:17-18)
- Priests of God (1 Peter 2:9; James 5:16; Romans 8:26-28)
- Ambassadors of God (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)
- Friends of God (John 15:15)
- Children of God (John 1:12-13; Romans 8:15)

6. Drive out fear with love.

Matthew 6:25-27; 1 John 4:18

7. Get it TOGETHER.

Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 10:24-25

TAKE OUT: It All Starts With Jesus

8. Jesus is the key!

Hebrews 12:1-3

NEXT WEEK: New Fall Kickoff Series... *Starting Over!*

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Talk about what you remember being most interesting, encouraging, or perplexing in Sunday's message.
2. Of the eight ways listed to fight fear with love, which is hardest for you?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Genesis 20**. Remember to use these questions more like a menu to choose from than a list to be fully completed.
 - a. Is there anything in the text that catches your attention?
 - b. What "tone of voice" do you hear God speaking with in verse 3? Why?
 - c. Here's a tough one: In **verses 4-6** Abimelek talks about taking Sarah with a clean conscience and God agrees. However, had Sarah not been married he would still have been adding her to a polygamous harem and she would have been Abimelek's sex-slave. Why does God not identify this as something sinful in this passage? Talk about how you make sense of this passage and how you would explain it to someone unfamiliar with the Bible and the teachings of Jesus.
 - d. God tells Abimelek that his sin would have been a sin against God (**verse 6**). Read what King David says in **Psalms 51:4**. Why is all sin ultimately a sin against God?
 - e. In **verse 10**, Abimelek asks a good question. Work your way through Abraham's answer in verses 11-13 and identify the fear, judgement, half-truth (full-lie), blame, and manipulation.
 - f. Abraham ended up better off than before because of his lying. What is the lesson in all of this?
 - g. Abraham was the source of suffering for Abimelek and his kingdom, yet his prayer is also what restores blessing (ability to conceive children) to Abimelek. What conclusions can we draw from this? Who have you wronged and put into a difficult situation that you can pray for this week?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Review 2-d. Do you see any of these excuses or bad habits in your own life? Talk about specific situations when you are weak. And ask for input, advice, wisdom, or encouragement from one another.