



**UNLEASH**  
RELEASING GOD'S RADIANT LOVE  
**SESSION 3**  
**TRUST**

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6

### ABOUT THIS SESSION

When the Bible talks about faith, it means more than believing something other people don't think is true. Biblical faith isn't just on the inside; it affects everything. In fact, the faith commended in God's Word is about trust and letting go.

Trusting God is easy when it doesn't really matter or when there's nothing at stake. But what about when trusting God comes with a price tag? What about when having everything that God longs to give us requires that we let go of things we also want to hang on to? In one of Jesus' shortest parables He said, “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.” (Matthew 13:44). There is a lot in this little story, but the main point is that in order to get the priceless treasure of the kingdom of heaven, the man is willing to sell everything. He puts everything at risk to get the treasure that is only found in God's Kingdom.

As we continue our journey with Abram, we're going to see that he's holding even the Promised Land loosely. He doesn't own it yet but he's not trying to hoard it in the meantime. He's all in for God's plan, God's timing, and God's way of doing things. He's trusting God even when the next step isn't clear.

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### READ GENESIS 13:1-9

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- Abram trusted God and didn't try to control the outcome by selecting the more profitable land. How does God's response to Abram's actions demonstrate how God feels about our actions in response to His call?
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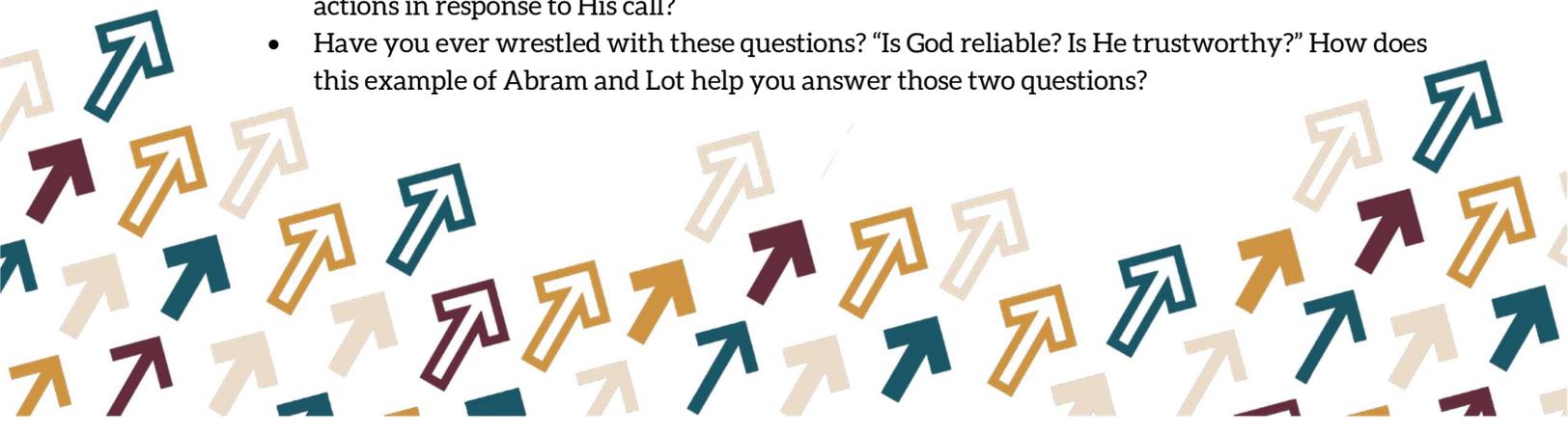
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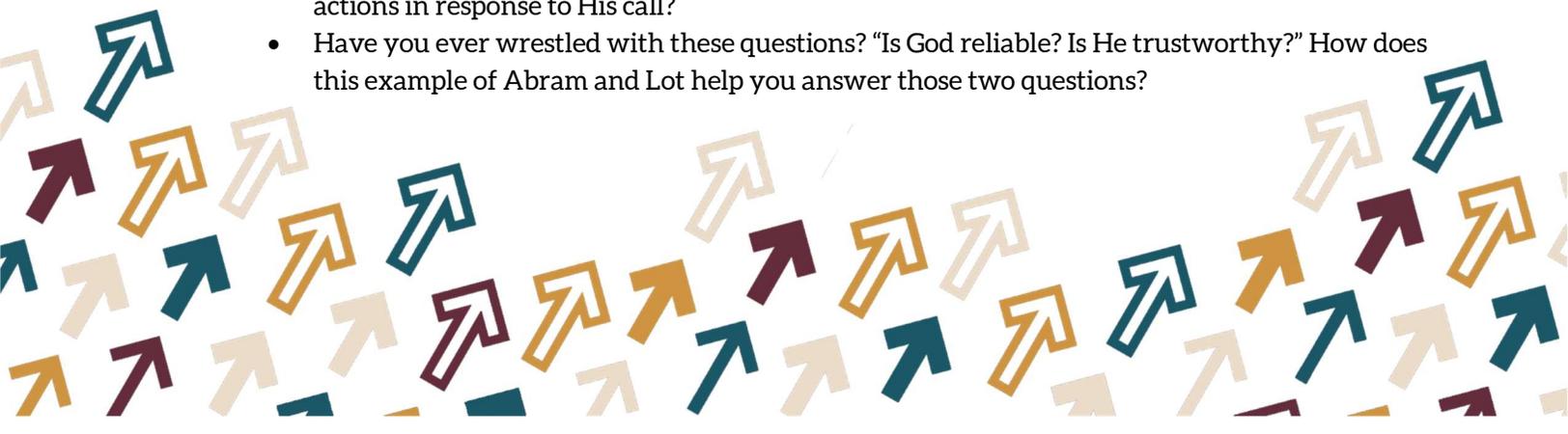
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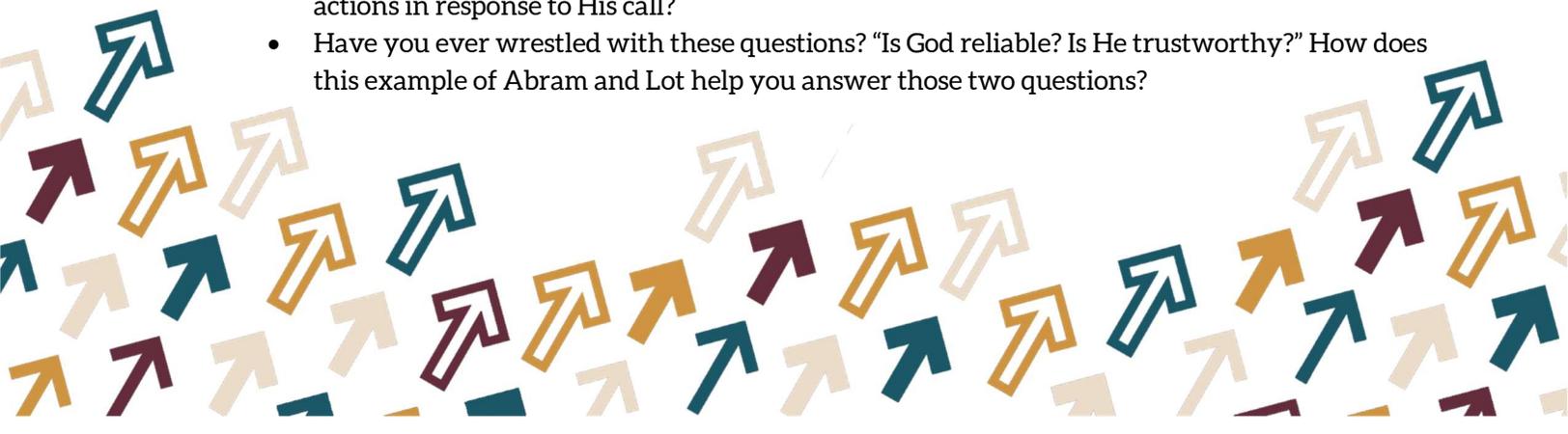
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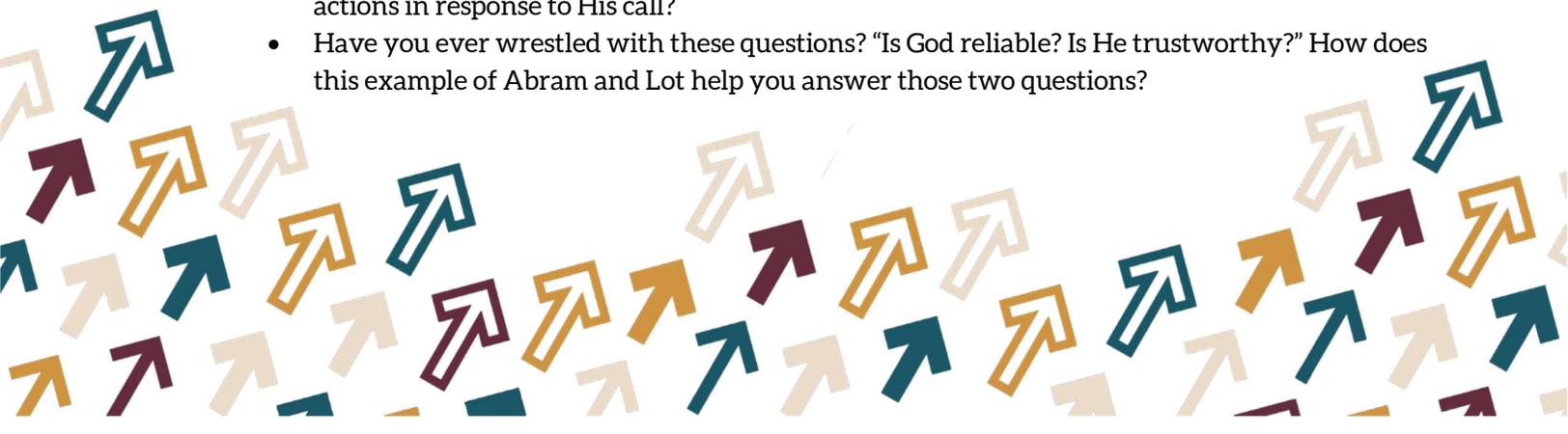
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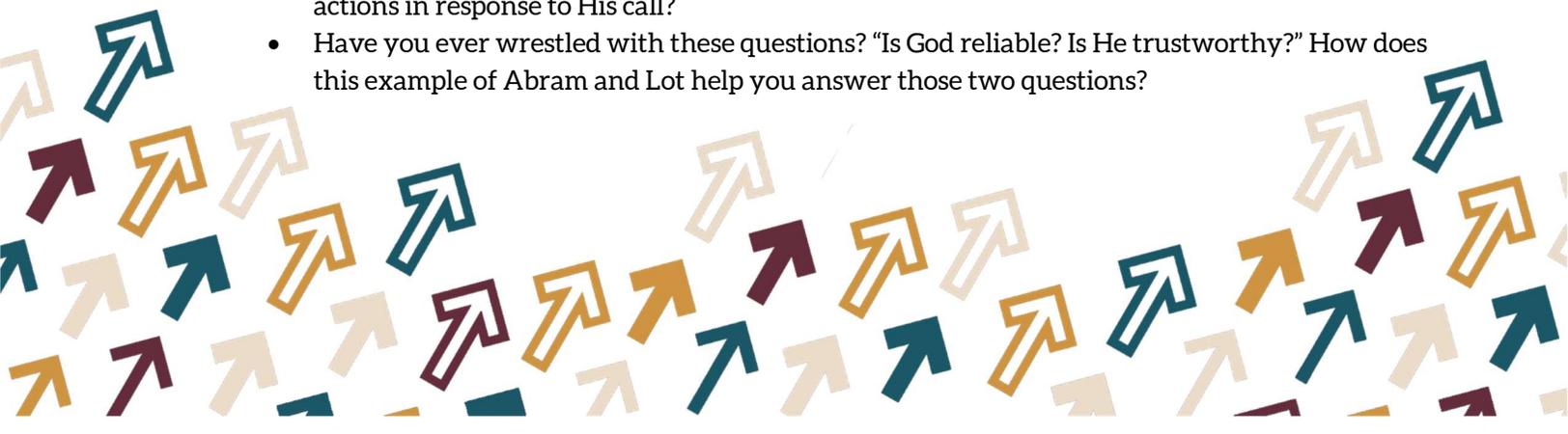
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- How do you respond to this statement, “I want to be known as a follower of Jesus, however, I don’t think God would ask me to make a sacrificial move right now”?
- What does trusting God look like in your life right now?
- As we look back on what God has spoken to you, now we have to wrestle with the questions: What is God saying to you? And what are you going to do about it? What is one thing you will change this week to become more of a follower of God?

## PRAY TOGETHER

To close your time together, spend some time praying for each other.

Ask everyone to share, “How can we pray for you this week?”





**UNLEASH**  
RELEASING GOD'S RADIANT LOVE  
**SESSION 3**  
**TRUST**

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6

### ABOUT THIS SESSION

When the Bible talks about faith, it means more than believing something other people don't think is true. Biblical faith isn't just on the inside; it affects everything. In fact, the faith commended in God's Word is about trust and letting go.

Trusting God is easy when it doesn't really matter or when there's nothing at stake. But what about when trusting God comes with a price tag? What about when having everything that God longs to give us requires that we let go of things we also want to hang on to? In one of Jesus' shortest parables He said, “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.” (Matthew 13:44). There is a lot in this little story, but the main point is that in order to get the priceless treasure of the kingdom of heaven, the man is willing to sell everything. He puts everything at risk to get the treasure that is only found in God's Kingdom.

As we continue our journey with Abram, we're going to see that he's holding even the Promised Land loosely. He doesn't own it yet but he's not trying to hoard it in the meantime. He's all in for God's plan, God's timing, and God's way of doing things. He's trusting God even when the next step isn't clear.

### COME TOGETHER

Small Group Host Note: Open your group with prayer. This should be a brief, simple prayer, in which you invite God to be with you as you meet. You can pray for specific requests at the end of the meeting or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

Take care of any housekeeping matters at this point, make sure the locations for upcoming meetings are clear, especially for the PIE meeting for your group. Take care of any other specific assignments and make sure introductions are made if there are new people.

- Describe a time when you did something unusual because someone you trusted encouraged you to take the risk and it made a big difference in your life.

### LEARN TOGETHER

A small group is a great learning environment where there are enough people to create a variety of perspectives but few enough not to be overly intimidating. When Jesus wanted to create an atmosphere for training and passing on His key message to the world, He began by forming a small group of sorts. We expect that much of the success and effectiveness of the UNLEASH Initiative over the next two years will be traced to the way in which the small groups have encouraged one another, worked through the questions, cheered on the new commitments, and let God speak to us.



### READ GENESIS 13:1-9

So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. 2 Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold. 3 From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier 4 and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the LORD. 5 Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. 6 But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. 7 And quarreling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time. 8 So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

- Pastor Brian talks about how the difference between being a BELIEVER and a FOLLOWER begins with developing relational trust with God. How does relational trust differ from a faith that just "does the right thing"?
- Abram had a lot of wealth and possessions. Moving them put all of that at risk. How does this passage demonstrate Abram's trust in God?
- Based on verses 8-9, why did Abram give Lot the first choice of lands on which to settle? In what ways was this trusting God?

### READ GENESIS 13:11-13

Lot took a long look at the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley in the direction of Zoar. The whole area was well watered everywhere, like the garden of the Lord or the beautiful land of Egypt. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) 11 Lot chose for himself the whole Jordan Valley to the east of them. He went there with his flocks and servants and parted company with his uncle Abram. 12 So Abram settled in the land of Canaan, and Lot moved his tents to a place near Sodom and settled among the cities of the plain. 13 But the people of this area were extremely wicked and constantly sinned against the Lord.

- How do these verses indicate Lot did not make his decision based on trusting God?
- What did Lot choose to focus on when making his decision over trusting God?

### READ GENESIS 13:14-17

After Lot had gone, the Lord said to Abram, "Look as far as you can see in every direction—north and south, east and west. 15 I am giving all this land, as far as you can see, to you and your descendants as a permanent possession. 16 And I will give you so many descendants that, like the dust of the earth, they cannot be counted! 17 Go and walk through the land in every direction, for I am giving it to you."

- Abram trusted God and didn't try to control the outcome by selecting the more profitable land. How does God's response to Abram's actions demonstrate how God feels about our actions in response to His call?
- Have you ever wrestled with these questions? "Is God reliable? Is He trustworthy?" How does this example of Abram and Lot help you answer those two questions?



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