



UNLEASH

RELEASING GOD'S RADIANT LOVE

SESSION 6

TAKE THE STEP

"What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ" Philippians 3:8

ABOUT THIS SESSION

The UNLEASH initiative is only a success if each of us come out of the stands, suit up, and get into the game. It's not too late to be a part of the team. God has great things ahead for all of us. At times in our lives, we want to have it both ways—ours and God's. It is not surprising that when we try to live this way the results are a mess. As we will discover with this last look at Abraham, sometimes we need to be reminded that God's way is ultimately the best, even when it looks like it will cost us everything.

"The life of surrender is choosing God before anyone or anything else."

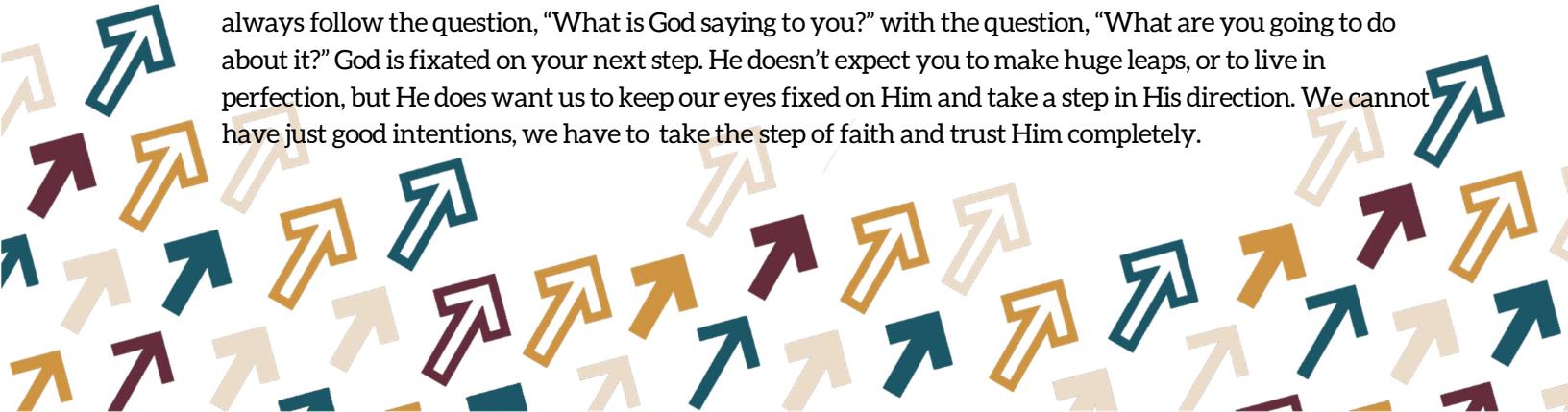
COME TOGETHER

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.

- Describe in three words or less what you are feeling about the next two years. How can others in this group support you and pray for you during this journey?
- Whether you have already made your UNLEASH commitment or you will make it very soon, would you share your story about what God has done in your life over these last several weeks to cause you to fully surrender to Him?
- Take a few minutes to decide what's next for your Small Group:
 - Choose an opportunity to serve together (i.e. serve at CR First on Sunday mornings with CR First Kids or First Impressions, serve in the community, or go on a missions trip).
 - Choose a time to meet during the break for fellowship and reconnection, and think about continuing to meet during our next session starting in late January.

LEARN TOGETHER

Pastor Brian has said our goal is to raise up 500 disciplers. This is based on Jesus' Great Commission in Matthew 28:19, "Go and make disciples." Disciples are followers of Jesus, not simply those who believe in Jesus. The difference between a believer and a disciple comes down to the actions we take. This is why we always follow the question, "What is God saying to you?" with the question, "What are you going to do about it?" God is fixated on your next step. He doesn't expect you to make huge leaps, or to live in perfection, but He does want us to keep our eyes fixed on Him and take a step in His direction. We cannot have just good intentions, we have to take the step of faith and trust Him completely.



READ GENESIS 22:1-8

Sometime later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. 2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." 3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." 6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, 7 Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" 8 Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

- What is the meaning of the word "sacrifice" in verse 2 and how important is it in understanding the way God wants us to see everything in our possession?
- What did surrendering Isaac do for Abraham?
- Is the value of surrender, like worship and trust, wrapped up in what these things do for God or in what these things accomplish in us?

GROW TOGETHER

God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son— the fulfillment of God's promise— not because He wanted to kill Isaac, but because He wanted Abraham to experience as deeply as possible the truth that life is about doing it God's way, even when it appears it will be too hard. We don't really know what it's like to "let God" until we are willing to "let go." For a disciple, a follower of Jesus, every area of our lives is in some stage of surrender, including the resources we have... and He has a right to it all. God is asking us to live our lives and give in a way that CHANGES us, to give in a way that COSTS us something, and to live in a way that truly honors WHO GOD IS in our lives.

- The hardest part of being a disciple is sharing "What are you going to do about what God has spoken to you?" out loud. Why is it harder to share this out loud than to simply make an internal decision to do something?
- The heart of surrender is "committing everything you know about self to everything you know about God." What are the effects of having a "heart of surrender"?
- As we have walked through this UNLEASH initiative together, we would like everyone to share what is one key thing God has spoken to you?
- What are you going to do about it?

PRAY TOGETHER

If you haven't decided on a follow-up meeting or time for small group to continue, do so now.

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

