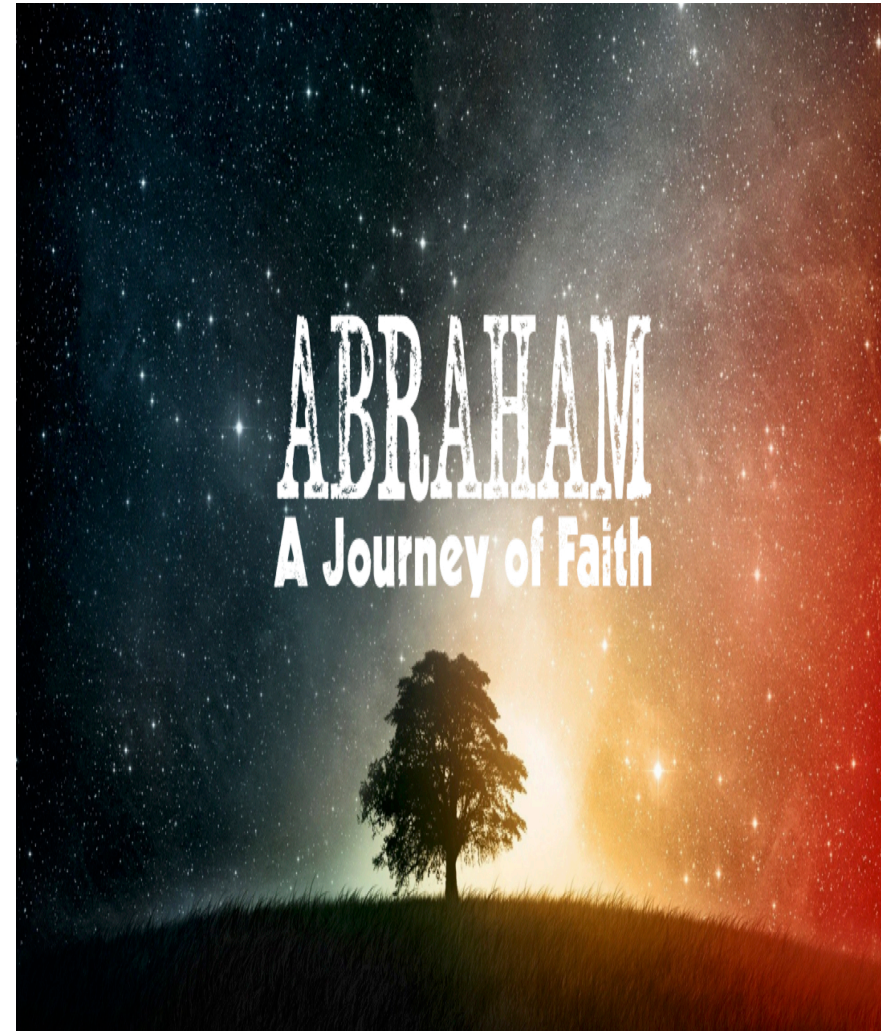


Life Group/ Reflection Questions

- *What is God speaking to me from this week's passage?*
- *What am I going to do about it?*
- *What are some of your greatest victory or success stories?*
- *What is the driving force behind our desire to be successful? Money? Reputation? A good life for our family?*
- *Often the desire for success is driven by good motives. What is the danger we face when successful? Review the 4 temptations of success discussed on Sunday. How have you experienced or seen these temptations personally?*
- *In this passage we discover Melchizedek quite possibly the most mysterious man in all of scripture. How does Melchizedek resemble Jesus Christ?*
- *What does Hebrews 7-8 say about Jesus being like Melchizedek? How do these truths impact your faith?*
- *What role does tithing play in your faith journey? What are your feelings around tithing?*
- *How can tithing act as a tool we use to fight the temptations that success brings in our lives?*
- *Worship is the key to defeating the temptations that come with success. How can you begin to worship God for the success and victories he has brought into your life?*



Sunday, Oct. 19th 2014
Abraham: Genesis 14:17-24
“How not to be defeated by Success”

Abraham
“How not to be defeated by Success”
Genesis 14:17-24

The Victory Scene:

¹⁷After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley).

The Greatest battle we will face is our Success!

1. Success tempts us to depend on ourselves rather than on God

¹⁸And Melchizedek King of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) ¹⁹And he blessed him and said,

Who is Melchizedek?

- King of Salem = Jerusalem
- Melchizedek = King of Peace & King of Righteousness
- Melchizedek was a Priest & King
- Melchizedek is a prefiguration or shadow of Jesus Christ!
- Hebrews 7-8

What does Jesus do for us as our eternal priest?

Jesus has offered an eternal unlimited sacrifice for our sin

- Hebrews 7:27
- You can stop trying to save yourself!

Jesus continually intercedes before God on our behalf

- Hebrews 7:25, Romans 8:34
- You can stop feeling guilty over past sin, and start living in the reality that God sees no sin in you.

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; ²⁰and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!” And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

2. Success tempts us to take credit for what is rightfully God’s

Tithing is an act of Worship

Tithing is our weapon against worshiping Success rather than God

When we tithe we declare:

- I have been blessed by God
- Everything I have is his
- My success and victory is the result of his hand not mine

²¹And the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself.” ²²But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have lifted my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, ²³that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, ‘I have made Abram rich.’ ²⁴I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me. Let Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share.”

3. Success tempts us to live for our glory rather than God’s glory

4. Success tempts us to hold others to our moral standards

How to win when we face the battle of Success?

- Worship God for your success’s and victories