

## GROWTH GROUP GUIDE

# WEEK 2 | A CANNONBALL OF TRUST, ABRAHAM

### MAIN IDEA FOR THOUGHT

As we allow God to challenge us on what it looks like for each one of us to “Jump In and Make Waves” with our cannonball, we are going to look at four characters in Scripture who did a cannonball with their faith as well. Our first one is Abraham. Abraham was called out by God into a place he did not know. He had to “jump” and leave his entire family and go to a new land in order to become the father of many nations. The level of trust and faith this required is immeasurable. The things God asked Abraham to do require a faith that only comes from a true relationship with God. God is asking us to trust Him as Abraham did.

What might that look like for you?

### Watch Week 2 Video

### OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What are some reasons, valid and rooted in anxiety, that tend to create trust issues with so many people?
- 2) When was a time when you trusted someone and it impacted your life positively in a significant way?
- 3) What does it take in order for true trust to be present in a relationship?

### FURTHER DISCUSSION FROM SCRIPTURE

Read each Scripture passage below and discuss the questions as a group. You may want to have each group member journal their answer first in the lines provided below before discussing together, as a means of encouraging all to participate more deeply.

#### God calls us to things we cannot yet see

##### GENESIS 12:1-3

*One day, the Eternal One called out to Abram. Eternal One: Abram, get up and go! Leave your country. Leave your relatives and your father's home, and travel to the land I will show you. Don't worry—I will guide you there. I have plans to make a great people from your descendants. And I am going to put a special blessing on you and cause your reputation to grow so that you will become a blessing and example to others. I will also bless those who bless you and further you in your journey, and I'll trip up those who try to trip you along the way. Through your descendants, all of the families of the earth will find their blessing in you.*

God called Abraham (Abram at the time) to a life he could not yet see – to a path that was unknown. He asked him to overcome his fear of uncertainty and to “jump” into the unknown. Do you easily jump into faith steps with God? Or do you “sit on the edge of the pool” for a long time before jumping in? If you're willing, share a faith step God called you into (water baptism, serving, giving, leading, etc.) and what that was like once you jumped in.

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We all are bent toward certain things to make us feel secure about our future. What can you easily find yourself putting your trust in besides God? Family? Friends? Money? Your career? Your talents and abilities? In what do you find yourself placing your security for the present and for the future?

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Many times in Abraham's journey, God asked Abraham to trust him. Each time he did, God always provided. At this time, are you trusting in God or trusting in \_\_\_\_\_(fill in the blank – yourself, money, etc.)? What do you think has prevented or is preventing you from fully trusting God like Abraham?

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**What's your mindset, Heaven or Earth?**

**COLOSSIANS 3:1-4**

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

A key to trusting like Abraham did is setting our hearts (desires) and minds (thoughts) on Christ and eternity. If you are a Jesus follower, think back to the time you were not. What was your heart (desires) and mind (thoughts) set on? When you came into a relationship with Christ describe if/how this changed.

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Take an honest assessment of what your heart (desires) is set on and what your mind (thoughts) is set on most often? Would you say you are living with an eternity-driven perspective or an earthly-driven perspective? How is this evidenced in your life, either for the positive or for the negative?

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What are some practical steps (actions, habits, practices) we can all take to live with an eternity-driven perspective?

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**God does not want generosity from us. He wants it for us.**

Remember back to our first passage in Genesis 12 about Abraham. God blessed Abraham to be a blessing. This is one of the most important, life-altering truths we can ever learn. God blessed Abraham with a covenant, offspring, possessions, and land, with the intention that the blessing would ultimately even come to us through him. Now read the next verse with this in mind.

**GALATIANS 3:14**

*This is what God had in mind all along: the blessing He gave to Abraham might extend to all nations through the Anointed One, Jesus; and we are the beneficiaries of this promise of the Spirit that comes only through faith.*

Like Abraham, God wants to bless you so that others will be blessed. You come to Jesus and you help others come to Jesus. You share that blessing. You have food to eat and you help others eat as well. You share that blessing. Take a moment to write down the many blessings God has allowed you to have. Now consider how you might share those blessings? Discuss your list.

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This Cannonball Initiative is the largest thing we have ever done as a Church Network. We are stepping out in faith and trusting God because we believe we've been blessed to be a blessing. Our lives should bless those around us. Our churches should bless our communities. And our Network should bless the world. Begin to consider what Cannonball generosity looks like for you. What might happen if 100% of us trusted God like Abraham did? Feel free to write your personal thoughts, some words you feel like God is speaking to you, or a prayer reflecting on what was discussed today.

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**Closing Prayer**

*God, help us to fully trust you when you call us out of our comfort zones. May we, like Abraham, be willing to leave what is comfortable and follow you, with faith, into our future. Help us as individuals and as an entire church community have an eternity-driven perspective as we give generously through Cannonball. Amen. ■*