



Heroic Tests of Faith

May 25/26, 2013

Connect to Others

1. What was the hardest test you remember taking in school?
2. Complete this sentence...“When the going gets tough, I _____.”

Commit to Growth

Read James 1:5; Genesis 12:1-15:6

1. **Read Genesis 12:1-3. What would it cost Abraham to follow God’s direction? If he obeys, what does God promise him?**

God calls for Abraham to leave his country, relatives and inheritance. God doesn’t tell him exactly where he is going, but if he obeys, God promises to make him a great nation and name, and promises to bring great blessing to all families on the earth through him.

2. **When Abraham comes to the Promised Land, only to find famine there, how do you think he felt about God’s promise? Why?**

Like us, I imagine he felt discouraged and doubted God. This was to be the Promised Land, but it didn’t look to promising. So Abraham trusts his own striving and seeks the security of his own safety and that of his wife.

3. **Read Genesis 13:1-14. What does Abraham’s decision to forsake rich cities and choose less fertile land reveal about his heart? See Hebrews 11:8-16.**

In 13:4, we see Abraham seeking God again, and as he begins to seek the Lord, there is more revelation of God’s plan. Abraham’s faith was only strengthened as he sought the Lord.

4. **Of all the tests Abraham encountered, what do you think was the hardest thing for Abraham to give up to God?**

There is no right or wrong answer here, but at the heart of all these tests, God wanted total surrender and obedience in order to bring blessing. It was Abraham’s willingness to surrender his will to God’s.

5. **What are the things in your life in which you have to grit your teeth in order to trust God? Why do you think God would want you to give those things to Him?**

List them. Name them. Confess them. Surrender them.

6. **Is God asking you to make a sacrifice of some kind? How can your sacrifice become an act of worship to Him?**

See Romans 12:1

7. **Where in your life do you need God to say, “Do not be afraid. I am your shield, your very great reward.” (Genesis 15:1)?**

Pray for one another in response to this question.