

SG

Your *group* matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

What's the silliest thing that you're really good at?

1. As Pastor Tom introduced this new series, he pointed out that many people believe God is a "cosmic scorekeeper." Have you been tempted to think this way, and if so, what were the circumstances or beliefs that led you there?
2. Abraham was called to leave all he knew and trust God with his family's future (**Genesis 12:1-3**). Pastor Tom emphasized "The call to trust is always central to true spirituality." Review the message notes to see the ways God asked Abraham to trust Him. Which of these listed in 1 A-G is hardest for you and why?
3. Pastor Tom asked a difficult question when he inquired, "Are we putting conditions on our obedience?" When do you find yourself doing this, and how can you move towards unconditional obedience?
4. Pastor Tom reminded us that Abraham was not "extraordinary/superhuman," but instead understood that "it's about relationship," and "that surrender is the channel through which God's biggest and best blessings flow". (See **Galatians 3:6**, **Romans 4:20-21**, **Hebrews 11:6** and **Romans 12:1**.) When have you witnessed or experienced these truths? Explain.
5. Read **Mark 8:35**. Pastor Tom concluded that God wants "all I am and all I have." What part of surrender challenges you most, and what steps will you take this week to live a more consistently surrendered life?

Day One: [John 20](#); [Psalm 88](#)

Day Two: [Exodus 38](#); [Proverbs 26](#)

Day Three: [Romans 10](#); [2 Samuel 8](#)

Day Four: [James 1](#); [Jeremiah 22](#)

Day Five: [Job 26](#); [Acts 4](#)

PERSONAL GUIDE

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.



RIVERSIDE CHURCH



MESSAGE NOTES



"What God is Looking For"

Aug 4, 2024 • Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH



"What God is Looking For"

Aug 4, 2024
Pastor Tom Lundeen

What are the most important _____ of what it means to be truly spiritual and growing in spirituality?
What does God want the _____ from us?

God = _____ scorekeeper
Today let's learn from Abraham's spiritual journey what God is really looking for:

1. Abraham's _____ Experience Shows What God Wants Most From Us

(Note **Genesis 12:1-3**)
The call to _____ is always central to true spirituality.

- A. **Famine** - Will you trust Me to _____ you?
(note **Genesis 12:10-20**).
- B. **Greed** - Will you trust Me to _____ for you?
(note **Genesis 13:14-17**).
- C. _____ - Will you trust Me with your possessions?
(note **Genesis 14:22-23**).
- D. _____ - Will you trust Me to fulfill My promises?
(note **Genesis 15:3, 6, 8**).
- E. **Timing** - Will you trust me by patiently _____?
(note **Genesis 16**).
- F. **Obedience** - Will you trust Me when what I ask you doesn't make sense?
(note **Genesis 17**).
- G. **Final Exam** - Will you trust Me with everything and _____ in your life? (note **Genesis 22:1-4, 10-18**). With God, risk really means _____ (Lawrence). We'll never know God in His power and love without taking the risk with Him (risk is another term for _____).

So what are we _____ on to?
Are we putting _____ on our obedience?

2. Abraham's Confidence in God's _____ is What He's Looking For

Scripture points to Abraham as the *Father of faith* (note **Galatians 3:6**), but not because he was extraordinary/_____.
Note **Romans 4:20-21**
It's not about _____; it's about relationship.

It's not about being a _____ nicer and a shade more moral and attending religious activities.
That's the lie of cults and other religions and it's _____ to transform our lives.
What God is looking for is a relationship through Jesus Christ and that relationship happens when we risk _____ (note **Hebrews 11:6**).

We have to believe God is God and _____.
And that God _____ those who genuinely seek Him.
Abraham's life tells us that surrender is the _____ through which God's biggest and best blessings flow (note **Romans 12:1 = give... _____**).

So are you legit?:

- It's possible to attend church, put money in the offering, and be a degree nicer than someone else, but do it all without giving God your _____.
- Because what God really wants is _____ (note **Mark 8:35**).
- What does God want from me and you?
- He wants all I _____ and all I _____.
- And when we give it all to Him, He will do what only He can do in our lives.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy). ***MYRC.LINK/CONNECT** or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



"What God is Looking For"

Aug 4, 2024
Pastor Tom Lundeen

What are the most important elements of what it means to be truly spiritual and growing in spirituality?

What does God want the most from us?

God = cosmic scorekeeper

Today let's learn from Abraham's spiritual journey what God is really looking for:

1. Abraham's Life Experience Shows What God Wants Most From Us

(Note **Genesis 12:1-3**)

The call to trust is always central to true spirituality.

- A. **Famine** - Will you trust Me to protect you? (note **Genesis 12:10-20**).
- B. **Greed** - Will you trust Me to provide for you? (note **Genesis 13:14-17**).
- C. **Prosperity** - Will you trust Me with your possessions? (note **Genesis 14:22-23**).
- D. **Courage** - Will you trust Me to fulfill My promises? (note **Genesis 15:3, 6, 8**).
- E. **Timing** - Will you trust me by patiently enduring? (note **Genesis 16**).
- F. **Obedience** - Will you trust Me when what I ask you doesn't make sense? (note **Genesis 17**).
- G. **Final Exam** - Will you trust Me with everything and everyone in your life? (note **Genesis 22:1-4, 10-18**). With God, risk really means risk (Lawrence). We'll never know God in His power and love without taking the risk with Him (risk is another term for trust).

So what are we holding on to?

Are we putting conditions on our obedience?

2. Abraham's Confidence in God's Promises is What He's Looking For

Scripture points to Abraham as the *Father of faith* (note **Galatians 3:6**), but not because he was extraordinary/superhuman.

Note **Romans 4:20-21**

It's not about rules; it's about relationship.

It's not about being a degree nicer and a shade more moral and attending religious activities.

That's the lie of cults and other religions and it's powerless to transform our lives.

What God is looking for is a relationship through Jesus Christ and that relationship happens when we risk surrender (note **Hebrews 11:6**).

We have to believe God is God and we're not.

And that God rewards those who genuinely seek Him.

Abraham's life tells us that surrender is the channel through which God's biggest and best blessings flow (note **Romans 12:1 = give...offer**).

So are you legit?:

- It's possible to attend church, put money in the offering, and be a degree nicer than someone else, but do it all without giving God your heart.
- Because what God really wants is you (note **Mark 8:35**).
- What does God want from me and you?
- He wants all I am and all I have.
- And when we give it all to Him, He will do what only He can do in our lives.

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