

# LIVING *by* FAITH

## STAYING THE COURSE

### ABRAHAM BELIEVED WHEN:

#### He didn't have all the details

Hebrews 11:8 *It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going.*

#### He didn't see any progress

<sup>9</sup>*And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise.* <sup>10</sup>*Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.*

#### It didn't go like he planned

<sup>11</sup>*It was by faith that even Sarah was able to have a child, though she was barren and was too old. She believed that God would keep his promise.* <sup>12</sup>*And so a whole nation came from this one man who was as good as dead—a nation with so many people that, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore, there is no way to count them.*

## The promise was never finished

<sup>13</sup>All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. <sup>14</sup>Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own. <sup>15</sup>If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. <sup>16</sup>But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

## What was asked didn't make sense

<sup>17</sup>It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, <sup>18</sup>even though God had told him, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted." <sup>19</sup>Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead.

## WILL YOU TRUST GOD TO:

provide all that we need

Matthew 6:33 *Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously; and he will give you everything you need.*

## Move at God's pace

Galatians 6:9 *So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. <sup>10</sup>Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.*