



**FOLLOWING JESUS TOGETHER**



**STUDYING THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM  
TO DISCOVER HOW TO BE ALL IN FOR JESUS**

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## **SESSION 2**

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**cornerstone**

[cornerstone.ag/allin](https://cornerstone.ag/allin)

# SESSION 2

## Trust

ALL IN REQUIRES

FIND  
FREEDOM

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. **Proverbs 3:5-6***

*And Jesus said . . . The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. **Matthew 13:44***

## ABOUT THIS SESSION

When the Bible talks about faith, it means more than believing something other people don't think is true. Biblical faith isn't just on the inside; it affects everything. In fact, the faith commended in God's Word is about trust and letting go; it's about being ALL IN.

Trusting God is easy when it doesn't really matter or when there's nothing at stake. But what about when trusting God comes with a price tag? What about when having everything that God longs to give us requires that we let go of things we also want to hang on to? This is what Jesus is talking about in Matthew 13:44.

There's a lot in this little parable, but the main point is that in order to get the priceless treasure of the kingdom of heaven, the man is willing to sell everything. He goes ALL IN to get the treasure that is only found in God's Kingdom.

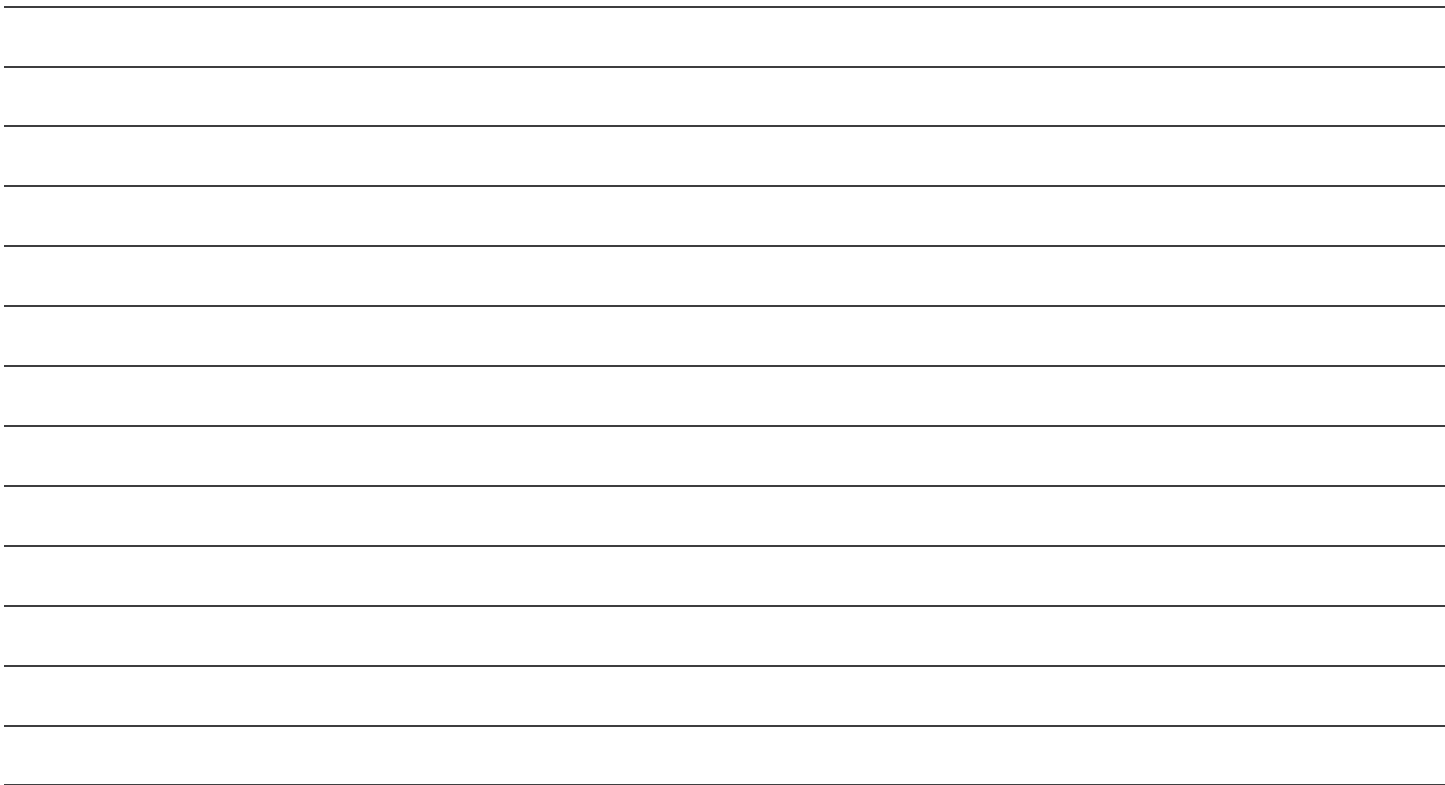
**"As we continue our journey with Abram, we're going to see that he's holding even the Promised Land that God has given him a vision for loosely. He doesn't own it yet but he's not trying to hoard it in the meantime. He's ALL IN for God's plan, God's timing, and God's way of doing things. He's trusting God even when the next step isn't clear."**

# SERMON NOTES

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**SERMON TITLE:**

[illegible]This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



A woman with long dark hair is shown in profile, singing into a microphone. She is wearing a dark floral-patterned top. Her right hand holds the microphone, and her left hand is raised with fingers spread. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text 'COME Together' is overlaid in white at the bottom.

COME  
Together

Small Group Host Note: Open your group with prayer. This should be a brief, simple prayer, in which you invite God to be with you as you meet. You can pray for specific requests at the end of the meeting, or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

Since this is only your second session, you may still be in the “getting to know one another” phase, so pass around a sheet of paper. Have everyone introduce themselves again and write down the contact information for any new people. Ask someone to make copies or type up a list with everyone’s information and email it to the group this week. Then, begin your time together by using the following questions and activities to get people talking.

## QUESTIONS

- 1** When you think of the expression “ALL IN,” what are some of the inspiring or funny pictures that come to your mind?
- 2** Describe a time when someone trusted you and it made a big difference in your life.

Trust is one of the core values of healthy small groups. It’s normal to see our sense of trust in the rest of the group grow from week to week as we get to know each other better and better. Last week you may have looked at the Small Group Agreement on page 114 but if there are several new people this week it would be worth reviewing those basic agreements.

Take care of any housekeeping matters at this point, making sure the locations for upcoming meetings are clear, and talking about any other specific assignments.

Give newcomers an opportunity to ask any questions they might have for the group.

# WATCH THE VIDEO



You can **watch the video online at [cornerstone.ag/ALLin](https://cornerstone.ag/ALLin)**. This second session video will take us more deeply into the experience of Abram as Pastor Shawn teaches us about the trust factors in Abram's life. Use the space provided to record any key thoughts, questions, and things you want to remember or follow up on. After watching the video, have someone read the Scripture passage and questions in the Learn Together section and direct the discussion among the group. As you go through each of the subsequent sections, ask someone else to read the questions and direct the discussion.



# LEARN TOGETHER

A small group is a great learning environment where there are enough people to create a variety of perspectives but few enough not to be overly intimidating. When Jesus wanted to create an atmosphere for training and passing on His key message to the world, He began by forming a small group of sorts. We expect that much of the success and effectiveness of the ALL IN Initiative over the next two years will be traced to the way in which the small groups have encouraged one another, worked through the questions, cheered on the new commitments, and let God speak to us.

Use the following questions to guide your discussion of the teaching and stories you just experienced and the Bible passage below. You may also want to refer to the study notes on the next page to guide your reading and discussion.

## SCRIPTURE

### READ: GENESIS 13:1-9

So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. **2** Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold. **3** From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier **4** and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the LORD. **5** Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. **6** But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. **7** And quarreling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time. **8** So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. **9** Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."





## QUESTIONS

- 1 Pastor Shawn posed two questions to draw our attention to the heart of trust: “Is God reliable? Is He trustworthy?” As you think about what you’ve heard from the video and God’s Word just now, what examples of God’s trustworthiness jump out at you?
- 2 Based on verses 8-9, why did Abram give Lot the first choice of lands on which to settle? In what ways was this trusting God?
- 3 Clearly, Lot didn’t care what God thought about his choice of location; he was interested in what appeared to be the better choice. How does Genesis 13:10 indicate he was about to make a bad choice?

## STUDY NOTES

**Where his tent had been at the beginning** (v.3). Returning from his time in Egypt, Abram set up camp near Bethel. God had told him this was the heart of all the land that would eventually be his.

**Their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together** (v.6). Both Abram and Lot had prospered on their travels and their livestock herds were so numerous that they couldn’t graze on the same lands, which caused strife between the herdsmen.

**Let there be no strife between you and me** (v.8). Abram valued his family ties. He and Sarai had no children of their own yet, and he was determined to keep peace in his extended household. If this meant creating some distance for practical reasons, he was willing.

# GROW TOGETHER

One of the keys to healthy application is realizing that when God teaches us something, living out that lesson will almost always involve other people. Note how the following questions move you in that direction.

In this section, talk about how you will apply the wisdom you've learned from the teaching and Bible study. Then think about practical steps you can take in the coming week to live out what you've learned.

- 1 What does trusting God look like in your life right now?
- 2 What kinds of baggage from your past or barriers in the present might be hindering your ability and willingness to trust God and the people in church?
- 3 What's wrong with this statement: "I want to be known as a follower of Jesus, but I don't want to have to trust Him in any meaningful or practical way"?



## PRAY TOGETHER

To close your time together, spend some time praying.

- ..... 1 Ask everyone to share, “How can we pray for you this week?” Be sure to write prayer requests on our Prayer and Praise Report on page 120.  
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- ..... 2 Close your meeting with prayer.



# DAILY Devotionals

There are six days of devotions. On the last day, read back over your responses and let that guide a final time of reflection.

Use these daily devotions to go deeper into this week's topic. Each day, read the verse given. Take your time. Ask God to speak to you through His Word. Notice which word or phrase stands out to you. Then take some time to journal your response back to Him. You can write whatever is on your heart. Answer the "Reflect" question only if it's helpful. Feel free to go another direction if you sense God leading you. On the first day, you may want to read over all the verses for the week to get the "big picture" of the passage. But then walk slowly, verse by verse. Listen to what God wants to say to you through His Word, and respond to Him as you meditate on the truths of Scripture.

After Day 3 of each week, you will have an opportunity to take what you have learned and put it into practice. These "Action Steps" will challenge you to respond to these truths in your daily life.

## MEMORY VERSE



Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.



**Proverbs 3:5-6**

## DAY 1

Read Philippians 2:4

*"...not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."*

### REFLECT

How does trusting God translate into less concern about self and more interest in helping others and the Body of Christ?

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## DAY 2

Read Matthew 6:33

*"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

### REFLECT

This is the alternative to worry Jesus offers in the extended passage of Matthew 6:25-34. In what ways is worry a clue that we're not trusting God?

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# DAILY Devotionals

## DAY 3

Read Proverbs 3:5-6

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."*

## REFLECT

How do these verses describe the way you're approaching your participation in the ALL IN Initiative?

## ACTION STEPS

During this week think about areas where you've struggled to really trust God. Every day this week, as you begin your day, pray that God will give you the strength to trust Him.

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**DAY 4**

Read Matthew 6:21

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

**REFLECT**

In what ways is your heart involved in your responses to the ALL IN Initiative?

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**DAY 5**

Read Hebrews 11:6

*"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."*

**REFLECT**

If faith and trust are closely related in our relationship with God, what evidence is apparent in your life that you believe "that He exists" and you believe "that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him?"

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**DAY 6**

Use the following space to write any thoughts God has put in your heart and mind about the things we have looked at in this session and during your reflection time this week.

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# OUR NEW Logo

*You are now members of the family of God and are built upon the foundation laid by the Scriptures of the apostles and prophets, **the cornerstone** being Christ Jesus Himself. We are carefully joined together in Him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through Him you too are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit. **Ephesians 2:19-22***

*Jesus is before all things; and in Him all things hold together.  
**Colossians 1:17***

*I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.  
**John 15:5***

*By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another. **John 13:35***



This new logo for our church family shows how we live out the truth that Jesus is The Cornerstone of our lives and of our church.

### **Priority**

At the center of the logo design is The Cornerstone, Jesus Christ, around which all of the other elements are situated. Without Him we can do nothing and are nothing. He is the One who saves and transforms. This logo reminds us that Jesus is the center and greatest priority of our church's identity, purpose and future vision.

### **Personally**

Ephesians 2:19-22 is from where we get our church name. The three elements around the Cornerstone represent the Spirit of God, the Word of God and the people of God. When these three elements are active in our lives we will stay Jesus centered. As we do this, we contribute to the creation of a church that is truly a "holy temple" for people outside of Christ to come to and be saved and transformed.

### **Community**

The three different shapes around the "Cornerstone" also represent the three major cultures of our community: African American, Anglo & Latino. By these three, plus many more, cultures coming together around The Cornerstone, we can find great unity and love for each other and become a powerful witness to our community of how Jesus and His Gospel are the answers it needs.



ALL  
IN



cornerstone