



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

SESSION 4

cornerstone

cornerstone.ag/allin

SESSION 4

ransformation

For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose. **Philippians 2:13**

ABOUT THIS SESSION

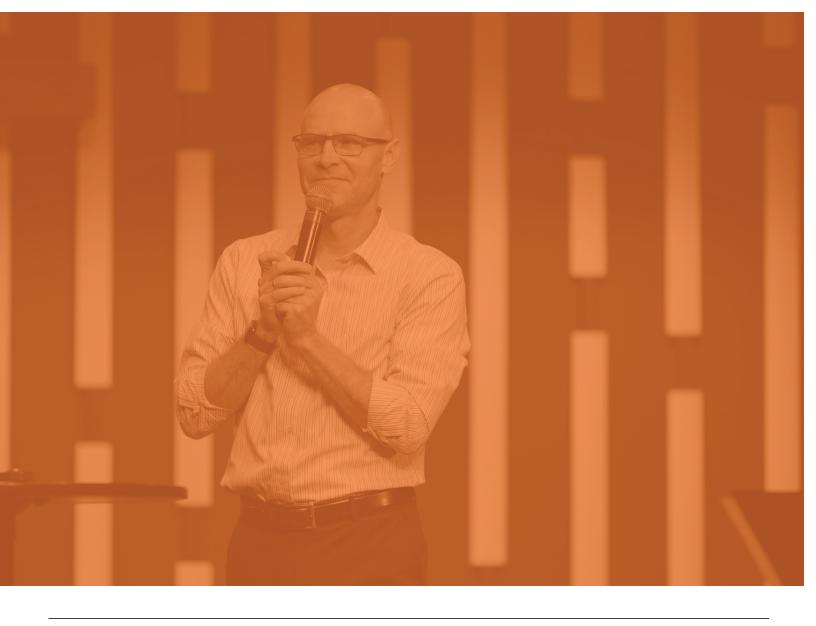
It's ALL IN time. This will be our last session together before we make our ALL IN commitment when we gather this Sunday. We will meet next week to celebrate and continue to grow, but what happens between now and then will mark a significant change in many people's lives. We trust this small group will be able to look back on these days as a time when God worked in unexpected ways to bring about far more than we asked or thought.

For many of us, the ALL IN Initiative has been a defining moment in which God worked on the process of transformation in our lives. As we will see in this session, God never stops working on us. Even someone who was ALL IN, like the Apostle Paul was, could write, "For I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that day" (2 Timothy 1:12).

We are trusting this has been and will continue to be a time of remarkable spiritual growth for the entire Cornerstone family. We're ALL IN this together, and God is going to do a great thing in us and through us.

SERMON NOTES

DATE:		
SERMON TITLE:		
SERMON TITLE.		



come

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.

Then, begin your time together by using the following questions and activities to get people talking.

QUESTIONS

- 1 Do you know the biblical meaning of your name? What is it? Is the meaning of your name significant to you?
- 2 Since we're going to talk a lot about transformation in this session, let's talk about what we mean when we use the word "transformed." What are the differences between an appearance or surface transformation (getting made up to play a part) and core transformation (what happens to a caterpillar on the way to becoming a butterfly)? Why would one be more desirable (or more difficult) than the other?
- What has stood out to you the most over the past four weeks since we've been doing the ALL IN series?

WATCH THE VIDEO

You can watch the video online at cornerstone.ag/ALLIN. This fourth session video will setup our discussion and will lead us towards our commitment in the ALL IN Initiative. In the video, Pastor Shawn is teaching on transformation and about how that has happened to our Cornerstone family in so many ways. Use the space 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 <u>TOGETH</u>ER

God uses stories to guide us. In fact, the Bible is His story! When we read the true stories of Scripture, we learn what God is like and we see His plan unfolding. We also learn principles for our own lives. So how can we become a part of God's story? By aligning our stories with His and not just understanding what it means to follow Him, but actually doing it—changing our attitudes and actions to live as He would live.

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.



READ: GENESIS 17:1-8

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. 2 Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." 3 Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, 4 "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. 5 No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. 6 I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. 7 I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. 8 The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."

2		QUESTIONS
	1	What is a detour / shortcut you tried to take to God's promises? What
		happened?
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STATE OF THE STATE	2	Why did God change Abram's name? Does acceptance of a name like
		"Christian" or "Christ-follower" make a difference in a person's life?
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Harry .		What was the most memorable thing Pastor Shawn said during the video about transformation?
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STUDY NOTES

I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless (v.1). Cause, action, result—God was pointing Abram to a transformed way of living. The order is significant. We often try to reverse it: once I'm blameless, maybe I can walk before Almighty God. Our approach is impossible; but God's approach is possible because He makes it so.

No longer shall your name be called Abram (v.5). In Abram's case, God takes some beginning-of-life-stuff (like getting a name and the act of circumcision) and makes it much later-in-life-stuff. God changed his name from Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (father of a multitude) and established a practice for each generation of sons of the Covenant before the first of those sons was born.

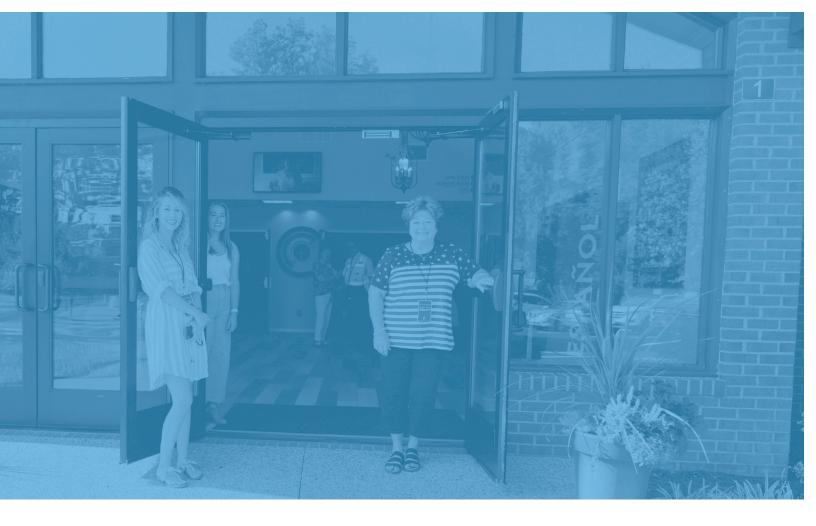
As you read this passage about Abraham, notice how God's move in his life affected everything—name, property, offspring, and possessions. God was declaring His right to all of it.



GROW TOGETHER

The idea of transformation (change under God's hands) sometimes seems rather intimidating – as if God needs to radically change who we currently are in order for us to be more like Him. The truth is that our experiences of transformation often come through multiple small transformations within us. The instant "radical" transformation is still possible, but does not happen as frequently as transformation by process. Since God designed you originally, it's His plan to complete your "formation" into the likeness of His Son.

- Share a significant past experience where God shaped you more into the image of Jesus.
- What is a next step in your transformation process? What is God asking you to do to make you more like Jesus?



PRAY TOGETHER

To close your time together, spend some time praying.

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.

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

"

For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose.

Philippians 2:13





DAY 3

Read John 14:27

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

REFLECT

As you prepare for next Sunday, are there any ways you are letting your heart be troubled or afraid? How might making the commitment take you into the peace Christ has for you?

This week practice being grateful to God for His transforming work in your life. Simply thank God

ACTION STEPS

each time you identify how your life has been transformed. Ideas may include: new passions, new memories, old habits, new friends, or health.

DAY 4

Read Philippians 2:13

"For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose."

REFLECT As the ALL IN study has unfolded, how have you experienced this verse to be true in your own life?
DAY 5
Read Romans 8:31-32
"What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He
who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"
graciously give us all trilligs:
REFLECT
How do these verses confirm your confidence as you prepare for the ALL IN commitment this Sunday?
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.



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.

