



## **BURN THE PLOWS – COMMITTED FAITH**

**20170423**

**ICEBREAKER:** Think back to something bold and daring you did as a kid. Maybe it was that jump you did with your bike, or that tree you climbed to the top. Share your adventure with your LifeGroup.

### **“ELISHA ... RIDICULOUS FAITH” - AN OVERVIEW:**

Welcome to Creekside’s LifeGroup series, *Elisha ... Ridiculous Faith*! Over the next four weeks your LifeGroup is going to dive into 4 adventures of a man named Elisha. Elisha lived around 800 years before Jesus. His role, given to him by God, was to serve as a prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel. This was a time when Israel was in rebellion against God. Elisha’s job was to do what he could to turn them back. Throughout his ministry, Elisha lived out incredible faith in God. We might even call it, *Ridiculous Faith*. For the next four weeks, we’re going to learn from Elisha’s faith and see how his example can inspire our own walk with God

The title of this week’s LifeGroup session is *“Burn the Plows – Committed Faith”*.

**Faith begins with a decision. It’s a decision to commit to a direction and action.**

**READ** 1 Kings 19:19-21 – Elisha Burns the Plows

- What was the significance of Elijah putting his cloak over Elisha’s shoulders?
- What faith decision did Elisha make after Elijah put his cloak over his shoulders?
- In what ways was Elisha signifying his commitment to God by burning the plows?
- Would you call Elisha’s faith in burning the plows, “ridiculous”? Why or why not?
- What are 3 modern day examples of what it might look like to “burn the plows”?

## **5 CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMITTED FAITH**

To “burn the plows” in our own lives takes committed faith. God loves when we live boldly trusting in Him, confident in His love for us and following his lead to accomplish great things in His Name. This is committed faith! To learn more about what committed faith looks like, we’re going to look into the life example of another Old Testament hero, Abraham. Here are 5 examples of committed faith Abraham gives us.

### **1. Committed Faith Obeys God’s Word**

READ Hebrews 11:8

- Do you think it was tough for Abraham to step out in faith? Why or why not?
- Why is obeying what God tells us in the Bible so important?
- As a group, come up with 5 examples from the Bible of commands God tells us to obey. To make this a challenge, don’t just cite 5 of the “Ten Commandments”. See if you can also choose some examples from Jesus or other parts of the New Testament as well.

5 Examples of Commands God has Given Me  
to Obey

- i.
- ii.
- iii.
- iv.
- v.

## 2. Committed Faith Means Be Willing to Give up Comfort, Predictability and Control

READ Hebrews 11:9

- By stepping out in faith, in what ways did Abraham give up comfort, predictability and control?
- As a group, think of 2 or 3 examples of what this might look like today.

COMFORT: What comforts might we have to give up when we step out in faith?

PREDICTABILITY: What predictabilities might we need to give up?

CONTROL: What control might we need to give up?

- Why are these things so hard for us to give up?

## 3. Committed Faith Trusts in God's Promises

READ Hebrews 11:1, 10 -11

- How do you think God's promises sustained Abraham to be able to live a life of faith?
- What challenge might Abraham have faced to believe God's promises for him?
- As a group, come up with examples of 3 promises that God has given us that can help us live out committed faith.

3 Examples of God's Promises to Me

i.

ii.

iii.

#### 4. Committed Faith Overcomes Doubt

READ Romans 4:18-25, Hebrews 11:13

- What did Abraham do to overcome his own doubt and live out committed faith?
- What statements might we say about ourselves or our circumstances, or what questions might we ask that fuel doubt?

Examples:

*"I don't think I can do it." "What if I blow it?"*

#### 5. Committed Faith Looks to God

READ Romans 4:20

- What did Abraham do to keep his eyes fixed on God?
- What might have happened if Abraham would have taken his eyes off of God?
- What helps you keep your eyes fixed on God?

#### Got a Decision to Make?

Here are 3 ways God gives us to help us discern what step of faith He is calling us to.

1. PRAY - READ James 1:5-6
  - How has prayer helped you in the past with making a decision?
2. ASK OTHER GODLY PEOPLE - READ Proverbs 19:20
  - How can your LifeGroup be of help to each other in giving godly advice?
3. BE SURE YOUR DECISION ALIGNS WITH GOD'S WORD - READ Psalm 119:105
  - How would you be able to determine if the decision you are considering aligns with the Bible?

Are there any other steps you would take to help with your decision?