

THE BIG IDEA: God won't fail us because God can't fail

The Take-Off

What a series and what a time for it!

This is our 12th Sunday doing life “together” online, and we’ve spent the last 5 of them looking at the life of Abraham and trying to understand discomfort from God’s perspective.

We’ve learned that God is clearly calling us to do what He asked of Abraham: dis comfort in search of the promise.

We’ve seen how God used waiting, obedience, and suffering in order to prepare Abraham for the promise.

I’m sure you’ve been able to relate to one of more of those.

Who are we kidding? We can relate to all of them!

And yet, what we’ve actually done during this series is observe Abraham, right?

We’ve drawn some parallels between his life and ours, but for the most part we’ve just been along for the ride.

We’ve watched him leave what was comfortable

We’ve watched him respond to the call of God out of comfort into covenant to become a conduit

We’ve watched him struggle through waiting, obedience, and suffering

And we’ve watched him step into the promise

We haven’t necessarily done anything, so as we wrap up the series, I want to call you to do more than just watch

This morning, we find ourselves at the proverbial cliff - or in my case, an actual cliff - and we all have to make decision: **will we trust or will we stay?**

That’s an intentional word choice, because when God calls us from what’s comfortable, we can’t say we trust Him and stay in what’s comfortable

So, let’s talk through what it means to trust...

1. The worst step is the first step

- a. I don’t care how long we all live, the hardest part of any task is starting
- b. The first step out the door for a run
- c. The first box when we’re packing or unpacking
- d. It’s hard to start, and when it’s the first step into the unknown, it gets harder
- e. **This is when we FACE our fears; it’s about our THOUGHTS**
- f. This can - and does - freeze many of us because we start to play the What If game
 - What if the worst happens? (have you noticed that we always think of the worst?)
 - What if God comes through? If He does what he said He’d do?
 - What if the best is just on the other side of the worst?
- g. This is what keeps kids on the side of a pool waiting forever to jump to their parent

2. The best step is the rest step

- a. At some point, though, we’ve got to decide that we’re putting our trust in God
- b. That’ll rest in Who He is and what He said - truly rest in His faithfulness
- c. **John 15** is an entire chapter dealing with abiding in Jesus - choosing to exhale in His love that is greater than any fear we may be facing
- d. **1 John 4:18** / **Perfect love casts out fear**
- e. **This is when we FAITH our fears; it’s about our CHOICES**
- f. We choose to believe that God is able and has our good in mind
- g. Can you imagine if I had to get to the bottom of this cliff WITHOUT the gear?
- h. The fear and the pain and the potential disaster?
- i. Resting in the gear is what allows me to have peace
- j. We trust the Promiser through the process of receiving the promise
- k. He is fully trustworthy
- l. Faith is more about the WHO than the WHAT
- m. I have confidence in the ropes, the trees and the rocks that are used as anchors, the harness
- n. But ultimately, my trust is in the people who made the ropes and tied the ropes
- o. We have confidence in prayer, in worship, in the Word
- p. These are all great resources for building our faith

- q. But ultimately, our trust must be in God - the One behind all of them
- r. **He won't fail us because He can't fail** - it's not His nature anymore than I could be a tree
 - **Joshua 21:45** / Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.
 - **Isaiah 55:11** / It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.
 - **2 Cor. 1:20** / For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.
 - **Psalm 33:4** / For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.
 - **Luke 1:37** / For no word from God will ever fail.
 - **2 Timothy 2:13** / If we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

3. We take courage so we can take steps

- a. So we FACE our fears, we FAITH our fears, and finally, we FILLET our fears!
- b. Fillet means to shred
- c. I wanted to say that this is when we finish fear, but if that was possible, God wouldn't have mentioned fear so much (365x "Do not fear")
- d. This is about our ACTIONS
- e. Courage isn't just something we have; it's something we use
- f. We take courage in order to DO something
- g. We can find ourselves thinking we don't have faith because we still have fear
- h. But we don't have faith instead of fear; we have faith in spite of fear
- i. We fillet our fear when we look at the worst step and still take it because we know that we can rest in God

The Landing

And that's my prayer for you, me, and our church body

That we would rest in Who God is just like I'm resting in this harness

That we would remember that He holds us and that He is the author and the finisher of our faith

I pray that you would leave what's comfortable to live what's possible

I pray that you would take the first step away from what you know and toward what you don't because you trust the

One Who called you out of comfort into covenant to become a conduit

His blessings for you (and others through you) are waiting

It all begins with that first crazy, fearful, exhilarating step

Take courage, and then, take that step.

I'll meet you at the promise!