

# Just Step Out

## Exploring the Wild Frontier of Faith

Pastor Toby Locke • Week 6 • 2/24/19

# Learning from Disappointment

Genesis 15:7-21

Introduction: What if disappointment can actually be a doorway to a deeper understanding of and intimacy with God?

## What does Abram Learn about God?

⇒ God REASSURES us of His good INTENTIONS. (Genesis 15:7-11, 17-18)

How? By making a COVENANT with him.

Why? To help us feel SECURE in our relationship with Him!

⇒ God REVEALS His Plan PROGRESSIVELY. (Genesis 15:12-16)

Why? To keep us MOVING FORWARD!

⇒ God accepts the RESPONSIBILITY for the RESULTS. (Genesis 15:17)

Conclusion: Disappointment may be a harsh teacher, but she has a LOT to teach us that we absolutely need to know. Are you ready to start learning today?

### Icebreakers:

1. Finish this sentence: "The one thing my grandparents taught me was..."
2. Who was the best teacher you ever had? What made them the best?

Sermon Summary: Facing our disappointment with God can actually help us get to know Him better – that He loves to reassure us about His good intentions, that He is willing to reveal His plan to us progressively, and that He accepts responsibility for a successful relationship with us.

### Discussion Questions:

#### \* God Reassures us of His Good Intentions

1. Read Genesis 15:8. Does Abram's question bother you? Should he have just accepted God's Word or was he right to ask for confirmation?
2. Are you surprised that God gives in to Abram's request for confirmation? Why or why not? What does it tell us about how God relates to us?
3. What kind of things do you do to make your spouse or closest friend feel secure about their relationship with you? Why is that important to you?
4. Read Hebrews 6:13-19. What are some of the promises that God has made to us (as the heirs of Abraham) that He wants us to feel secure ABOUT?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 1:22, 5:5, and Ephesians 1:14. What has God given to us as a "guarantee" or "downpayment"? Why would that be enough reason for me to trust that God will give me the rest of his promises someday?
6. What tends to cause you to lose your sense of security in your relationship with God? When that happens, what can you do to regain that security?

#### \* God Reveals His Plan Progressively

7. Can you remember a time when God gave you an answer that you needed in that moment to help you keep moving forward? If so, tell the story!
8. Read Matthew 6:31-34. Why are we so confident that we can handle complete knowledge of the future?
9. How can you tell the difference between "needing" to know and "wanting" to know?

#### \* God Accepts the Responsibility for the Results

10. Read Genesis 15:17. How would Abram's story have turned out differently if both he and God had walked through the subdivided livestock?
11. How has God shown you His faithfulness over the last year?