

ALL IN *is about* LEGACY

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

Hebrews 11:8 (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION

You are someone's legacy.

You are someone's legacy. In fact, many people have stepped out in ways they didn't have to that have resulted in...you. Start with your parents and grandparents and think for a moment about all the people who have spoken into and impacted your life. No, it hasn't always been in positive ways, but even negative stuff can end up affecting you in good ways. Life's hurts can help us become healers; and hardships can push us toward hope and character. The best way to be grateful for the legacy we've received is to decide and practice the legacy we want to leave those who come after us. The question we want to answer is, "Knowing what I have received, how will I provide the same for others?"

During the next 6 weeks we're going to be thinking about Abraham. Though he lived over four thousand years ago, his legacy is still touching people around the world. He was a man of faith and of failures. In other words, he was someone we can identify with if we let ourselves. Abraham had to make a decision about what kind of legacy he was going to leave behind: a stay put, "same old, same old" legacy of never following where God led or a "step out in faith," obedient kind of legacy that God could bless in many ways. Abraham decided to go for it, even though he didn't know where he would end up.

But our journey will be more than 6 weeks—we're embarking on a 2-year adventure called ALL IN: Pervasive Hope Starts with Me. We are trusting God to do a great work in bringing us together in ways we have never experienced before.

We are going to discover the ways the Lord wants to use each of us and all of us together to accomplish great things for Him.

COME TOGETHER

Each of us has a story. The events of our life—good, bad, wonderful, or challenging—have shaped who we are. God knows your story, and He intends to redeem it—to use every struggle and every joy to ultimately bring you to Himself. When we share our stories with others, we give them the opportunity to see God at work.



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.

As part of "getting to know one another," pass around a sheet of paper to collect names and contact information, giving all present an opportunity to fill it out. Have everyone introduce themselves, then write down their contact information. Ask someone to make copies or type up a list with everyone's information and email it to the group this week.



1 What drew you here to this group?
How are you anticipating God will grow
you through this season of ALL IN?

2 If your group is new, welcome newcomers. Introduce everyone—you may even want to have name tags for your first meeting.

Whether your group is new or ongoing, it's always important to reflect on and review your values together. On page 101 there is a LIFE Group Agreement with the values we've found most useful in sustaining healthy, balanced groups. We recommend that you choose 1 or 2 values—and perhaps ones you haven't previously focused on or have room to focus in—so that they can be emphasized during this study.

We've come to realize that healthy groups rotate responsibilities. This helps to develop every member's ability to shepherd a few people in a safe environment. Even Jesus gave others the opportunity to serve alongside Him (Mark 6:30–44). Look at the FAQs in the Appendix for additional information about hosting the group.

Use the LIFE Group Calendar on page 102 to plan who will host each meeting. Take a few minutes to plan hosts for your remaining meetings. Don't pass this up! It will revolutionize your group.



WATCH THE *VIDEO*

You can watch the video online at sdrock.com/ALLIN or on the ALL IN DVD. This first session video will give the group a sense of the tone for ALL IN. Included are not only Pastor Miles' teachings, but also some worship opportunities and recorded interaction with others from the Rock Church. 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 Read 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



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. And we also learn principles for our own lives. How can we become a part of God's story? By aligning our stories with His; 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 on the next page. You may also want to refer to the study notes on page 20 to guide your reading and discussion.

READ: GENESIS 12:1-8

'Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." ⁴ So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan. ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land. ⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸ And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord. (NKJV)

- 3 Think for a moment about being a member of Abram's household. He announces at breakfast one morning, "Last night the Lord spoke to me. Today we're packing up and hitting the road." What would be some of your questions?
- 4 Based on the passage from Genesis for this session, what kind of legacy was Abram creating by his actions in Genesis 12:1-8?
- 5 In the video we heard a number of people share about the legacy impact others had on their lives. What example(s) come to your mind about ways people have built a legacy into you?



STUDY NOTES

The Lord said to Abram (v.1). Before God changed his name to Abraham (father of many) the patriarch of Israel was Abram (exalted father). When we see the title “Lord” (Large cap/ small caps), it indicates God’s name Yahweh, which won’t be explained until Exodus 3. But since Moses was writing these chapters, he used the title for God that was most familiar to him.

I will bless (v.2, 3). We bless when we speak or deliver good into someone’s life. God not only promised to do good for Abram, He also promised to make Abram’s life into something good for others.

In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed (v.3). The idea of legacy has a lot to do with understanding that the blessings of God aren’t supposed to stop with us. Blessings flow through us to others. We can’t even imagine how much God might bless others through us.

There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord (v.7). Abram was aware of God’s company and leading. But it was more than knowing He was there; he responded in worship. He acknowledged the Lord and expressed his confidence in Him.

GROW TOGETHER

Our Creator is certainly after more from us than a grudging acknowledgment that He exists. There are plenty of people who are willing to admit there’s a God, but they still don’t want to have anything to do with Him. God wants you to be a part of His Kingdom—to weave your story into his. That will mean change—to go His way rather than your own. This won’t happen overnight, but it should happen steadily. By starting with small, simple choices, we begin to change our direction. We can build a legacy that will please God. The Holy Spirit helps us along the way—giving us gifts to serve the body, offering us insights into Scripture, and challenging us to love not only those around us but those far from God.

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.

- 6 How do you put into practice your belief in the mission of Rock Church: to Save, Equip, and Send? Do you believe it’s worth sacrificing for? Why?
- 7 In what ways do you feel that God is calling you out from something, away from something, so that He can leave a legacy through you, as He did with Abram? What has been your response so far?
- 8 How does the challenge to leave a legacy change your perspective on how you’re living right now?
- 9 When it comes to stewardship and generosity, would you say that God wants something FOR you or FROM you? What’s the difference between those two perspectives?



If stewardship is a new term in your Christian experience, it has long been used to refer to God’s entrusting us with the management of the resources He gives us: time, talents, and treasure. These things may seem to be ours, but they ultimately belong to Him. Even what we earn, we have earned using time, strength, and skill God has provided to us.



1 Select this week's worship set on your DVD or online video (sdrock.com/ALLIN).

2 Ask everyone to share: “How can we pray for you this week?” Be sure to write prayer requests on your *Prayer and Praise Report* on page 104.

3 Close your meeting with prayer.

SERMON NOTES

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.

DAY 1

Read Hebrews 11:8

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

Reflect:

It's easy to think, "if God told me to go, I'd go—but have you?" Under what circumstances have you responded to God the way Abram did?

DAY 2

Read Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

Reflect:

In what ways are you personally ALL IN to Rock Church's mission of Save, Equip, Send? What do each of those terms mean to you?

DAY 3

Read Proverbs 3:35

The wise shall inherit glory, But shame shall be the legacy of fools.

Reflect:

Note that legacy parallels inheritance. What would you say are the 3 main examples of the faith legacy you have created to leave behind at this point in your life? What would you change?

Action Steps:

During this week spend some time thinking about 2 things :

- What do you feel you are known for now?
- What do you want to be known for towards the end of your life?

DAY 4

Read Ephesians 3:6

...that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel.

Reflect:

What you have in Christ you have not in any way earned. As you begin to engage with the ALL IN study, in what areas of life are you wanting to be more active in sharing the inheritance you have in Christ?

DAY 5

Read Philippians 4:19

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Reflect:

How can we know the truth of this promise unless we are willing to stop gripping on to the things of this life as if they were our true security? What do you need to release into God's hands as you seek to be ALL IN to what He wants to do in you and in us?

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.

APPENDICES

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

Tools to Help You Have a Great LIFE Group Experience!



- 1 Notice in the Table of Contents there are three sections: (1) Front Matter; (2) Sessions; and (3) Appendices. Familiarize yourself with these sections. Some of the Appendices will be used in the sessions themselves.
- 2 This is much more than a LIFE Group workbook. It has been designed as a constant companion for the ALL IN Initiative. What we do in worship, the messages we hear, and every aspect of our life together as Rock Church family will be guided by this Study Guide during the coming weeks.
- 3 If you are Hosting or co-hosting a LIFE Group, check out **sdrockgroups.com** and you will find some encouragement and help so you can avoid common obstacles to effective group meetings.
- 4 Use this Study Guide as an advisor. If the group responds to the lesson in an unexpected but honest way, go with that. If you think of a better question than the next one in the lesson, ask it.
- 5 Enjoy your LIFE Group experience. Have fun.
- 6 Pray before each session—for your group members, for your time together, and for wisdom and insights.
- 7 Read the outline for each session on the next pages so that you understand how the sessions will flow.

OUTLINE OF EACH SESSION

A typical group session for the ALL IN study will include the following sections:

- INTRODUCTION.** Each lesson opens with a brief thought that will help you prepare for the session and get you thinking about the particular subject you will explore with your group. Make it a practice to read these before the session.
- COME TOGETHER.** The foundation for spiritual growth is an intimate connection with God and God’s family. You build that connection by sharing your experience with a few people who really know you and who earn your trust. This is helpful preparation for being able to share what Christ has done in your life with anyone you meet—which is what a disciple is ready to do. This section includes some simple questions to get you talking—letting you share as much or as little of your story as you feel comfortable doing. Each session typically offers you 2 options. You can get to know your whole group by using the icebreaker question(s), or you can check in with 1 or 2 group members for a deeper connection and encouragement in your spiritual journey.
- WATCH THE VIDEO.** When the study directs you to, you’ll start the video and watch a short teaching segment. You can watch the videos online at sdrock.com/allin or with the ALL IN DVD available at each Rock campus. Each session’s teaching will include biblical insights from Pastor Miles, interaction with brothers and sisters about aspects of the ALL IN life, and powerful worship music to lead us into God’s presence. Space is provided in this study guide to take notes you can use in the discussion to follow.
- LEARN TOGETHER.** In this section, you’ll have an opportunity to read a passage of Scripture and discuss both the teaching and the text. You won’t focus on accumulating information but on how you should live in light of the Word of God. We want to help you apply the insights from Scripture practically and creatively, from your heart as well as your head. At the end of the day, allowing the timeless truths from God’s Word to transform our lives in Christ should be your greatest aim.
- STUDY NOTES.** This brief section provides additional commentary, background, or insights on the passage you’ll study in the Learn Together section.
- GROW TOGETHER.** God wants you to be a part of His Kingdom—to weave your story into His. That will mean change. It will require you to go His way rather than your own. This won’t happen overnight, but it should happen steadily. By making small, simple choices, we can begin to change our direction. This is where the Bible’s instructions to “be doers of the Word, not just hearers” (James 1:22) comes into play. Many people skip over this aspect of the Christian life because it’s scary, relationally awkward, or simply too much work for their busy schedules. But Jesus wanted all of His disciples to know Him personally, carry out His commands, and help outsiders connect with Him. This doesn’t necessarily mean preaching on street corners. It could mean welcoming newcomers, hosting a short-term group in your home, or walking through this study with a friend. In this study, you’ll have an opportunity to go beyond Bible study to biblical living.
- SHARE AND WORSHIP TOGETHER.** This section will have a question or two that will challenge you to live out your faith by serving others, sharing your faith, and worshiping God.
- SERMON NOTES.** Bring your study guide with you each Sunday and take notes during the sermon in the provided blanks.
- DAILY DEVOTIONS.** Each week on the Daily Devotions pages we provide Scriptures to read and reflect on between sessions—a month’s worth of reflections to keep God’s Word near your heart. This provides you with a chance to slow down, read just a small portion of Scripture each day, and reflect and pray through it. You’ll then have a chance to journal your response to what you’ve read. Use this section to seek God on your own throughout the week. This time at home should begin and end with prayer. Don’t get in a hurry; take enough time to hear God’s direction.

FAQs

About LIFE Groups

What do we do on the first night of our group?

Like all fun things in life—have a party! A “get to know you” coffee, dinner, or dessert is a great way to launch a new study. You may want to review the Group Agreement (page 101) and share the names of a few friends you can invite to join you. But most importantly, have fun before your study time begins.

Where do we find new members for our group?

The best way to grow your group is through personal invitation! Make a list of friends, coworkers, and family members, etc. that you can invite. And then make it a point to talk to at least five people every Sunday, asking if they’re in a LIFE Group, and then invite them to your group if they’re not already involved.

No matter how you find members, it’s vital that you stay on the lookout for new people to join your group. All groups tend to go through healthy attrition—the result of moves, releasing new hosts, ministry opportunities, and so forth—and if the group gets too small, it could be at risk of shutting down. If you and your group stay open, you’ll be amazed at the people God sends your way. The next person just might become a friend for life. You never know!

How long will this group meet?

The ALL IN Study lasts for 6 weeks, but we’d encourage you to prayerfully consider continuing your group after ALL IN is complete! At the end of this study, each group member may decide if he or she wants to continue on; some groups launch relationships for years to come and others are stepping stones into another group experience. Either way, enjoy the journey.

Can we do this study on our own?

Absolutely! This may sound crazy, but one of the best ways to do this study is not with a full house but with a few friends. You may choose to gather with another couple who would enjoy some relational time (perhaps going to the movies or having a quiet dinner) and then walking through this study. Jesus will be with you even if there are only two of you (Matthew 18:20).

What if this group is not working for us?

You’re not alone! This could be the result of a personality conflict, life stage difference, geographical distance, level of spiritual maturity, or any number of things. Relax. Pray for God’s direction, and at the end of this 6-week study, decide whether to continue with this group or find another. You don’t typically buy the first car you look at or marry the first person you date, and the same goes with a group. However, don’t bail out before the 6 weeks are up—God might have something to teach you. Also, don’t run from conflict or prejudice people before you have given them a chance. God is still working in your life, too!

Who is the host?

Most groups have an official host who facilitates the group. But ideally, the group will mature and members will rotate the leadership of meetings. We have discovered that healthy groups rotate hosts/leaders, on a regular basis. This model ensures that all members grow, give their unique contribution, and develop their gifts. This study guide and the Holy Spirit can keep things on track even when you rotate hosts. Christ has promised to be in your midst as you gather. Ultimately, God is your leader each step of the way.

How do we handle the childcare needs in our group?

Very carefully. Seriously, this can be a sensitive issue. We suggest that you empower the group to openly brainstorm solutions. You may try one option that works for a while and then adjust over time. Our favorite approach is for adults to meet in the living room or dining room and to share the cost of a babysitter (or two) who can watch the kids in a different part of the house. This way, parents don’t have to be away from their children all evening when their children are too young to be left at home. A second option is to use one home for the kids and a second home (close by or a phone call away) for the adults. A third idea is to rotate the responsibility of providing a lesson or care for the children either in the same home or in another home nearby. This can be an incredible blessing for kids. Finally, the most common solution is to decide that you need to have a night to invest in your spiritual lives individually or as a couple and to make your own arrangements for childcare. No matter what decision the group makes, the best approach is to dialogue openly about both the problem and the solution.

LIFE GROUP

AGREEMENT

Our purpose is to talk about what it means to live a God-first life with a few friends.

Group Attendance

To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent. (Completing the Group Calendar on page 102 will minimize this issue.)

Safe Environment

To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved.

Respect Differences

To be gentle and gracious toward people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or “imperfections.” We are all a work in progress.

Confidentiality

To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.

Encouragement for Growth

Accept one another as we are while encouraging one another to grow.

Shared Ownership

To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

LIFE GROUP CALENDAR

Planning and setting dates can help ensure the greatest participation at every meeting. At the end of each meeting, review this calendar. Consider rotating the host, and don't forget birthdays, socials, church events, holidays, and outreach/ministry projects.

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MEMORY *VERSES*

SESSION ONE

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

· (Hebrews 11:8 NKJV)

SESSION TWO

Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

. (Philippians 2:4 NKJV)

SESSION THREE

He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me’”

- (Mark 7:6 NKJV)

SESSION FOUR

To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

· (Revelation 3:21 NKJV)

SESSION FIVE

...for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

· (Philippians 2:13 NKJV)

SESSION SIX

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ...

· (Philippians 3:7-8 NKJV)



