

ALL IN *requires* TRUST

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

Philippians 2:4 NKJV

INTRODUCTION

When the Bible talks about faith it means more than believing something other people don't think is true. Biblical faith isn't just on the inside; it affects everything. In fact, the faith commended in God's Word is about trust and letting go; it's about being ALL IN.

Trusting God is easy when it doesn't really matter, when there's nothing at stake. But what about when trusting God comes with a price tag? What about when having everything that God longs to give us requires that we let go of

things we also want to hang on to? In one of Jesus' shortest parables He said, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field" (Matthew 13:44 NKJV). There's a lot in this little story, but the main point is that in order to get the priceless treasure of the kingdom of heaven for free, the man has to sell everything just to buy the farm. He has to go ALL IN on the farm and then he gets the treasure.

As we continue our journey with Abram, we're going to see that he's holding even the Promised Land loosely. He doesn't own it yet but he's not trying to hoard it in the meantime. He's ALL IN for God's plan, God's timing, and God's way of doing things. He's trusting God even when the next step isn't clear.

COME *TOGETHER*

LIFE 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.

Since this is only your second session, you may still be in the "getting to know one another" phase, so pass around a sheet of paper. Have everyone introduce themselves again, and write down the contact information for any new people. Ask someone to make copies or type up a list with everyone's information and email it to the group this week.

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



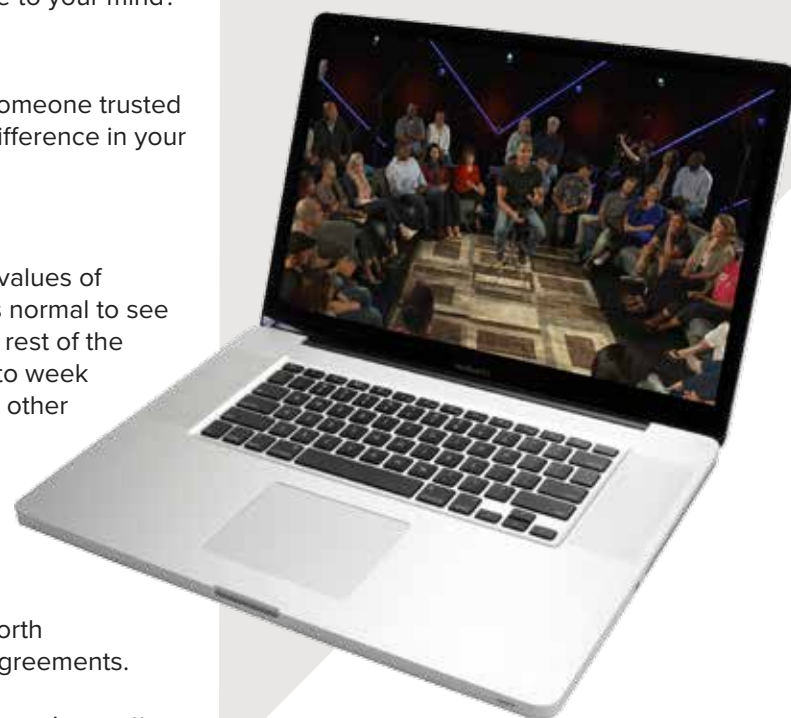
1 When you think of the expression “ALL IN,” what are some of the inspiring or funny pictures that come to your mind?

2 Describe a time when someone trusted you and it made a big difference in your life.

3 Trust is one of the core values of healthy LIFE Groups. It’s normal to see our sense of trust in the rest of the group grow from week to week as we get to know each other better and better. Last week you may have looked at the LIFE Group Agreement on page 101 but if there are several new people this week it would be worth reviewing those basic agreements.

- Take care of any housekeeping matters at this point, making sure the locations for upcoming meetings are clear and talking about any other specific assignments.

- Give newcomers an opportunity to ask any questions they might have for the group.



WATCH THE VIDEO

You can watch the video online at sdrock.com/ALLIN or on the ALL IN DVD. This second session video will take us more deeply into the experience of Abram as Pastor Miles teaches us about the trust factors in Abram’s life. The group should also enjoy the worship opportunities and recorded interaction with others from 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



A LIFE Group is the optimum learning environment, where there are enough people to create a variety of perspectives but few enough not to be overly intimidating. When Jesus wanted to create an atmosphere for training and passing on His key message to the world He began by forming a LIFE Group of sorts. We expect that much of the success and effectiveness of the ALL IN Initiative over the next two years will be traced to the way in which the LIFE Groups have encouraged one another, worked through the questions, cheered the new commitments, and let God speak to us.

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 34 to guide your reading and discussion.

READ: GENESIS 13:1-9

¹ Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South. ² Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. ³ And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, ⁴ to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the LORD. ⁵ Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents. ⁶ Now the land was not able to support them that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together. ⁷ And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land. ⁸ So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. ⁹ Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left." (NKJV)

- 4 Pastor Miles used a question to draw our attention to the heart of trust: is God reliable? Is He trustworthy? As you think about what you've heard from the video and God's Word just now, what examples of God's trustworthiness jump out at you?
- 5 Based on verses 8-9, why did Abram give Lot the first choice of lands on which to settle? In what ways was this trusting God?
- 6 Clearly, Lot didn't care what God thought about his choice of location; he was interested in what appeared to be the better choice. How does Genesis 13:10 indicate he was about to make a bad choice?



STUDY NOTES

Where his tent had been at the beginning (v.3). Returning from his time in Egypt, Abram set up camp near Bethel. God had told him this was the heart of all the land that would eventually be his.

Their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together (v.6). Both Abram and Lot had prospered on their travels and their livestock herds were so numerous that they couldn't graze on the same lands, which caused strife between the herdsmen.

Let there be no strife between you and me (v.8). Abram valued his family ties. He and Sarai had no children of their own yet and he was determined to keep peace in his extended household. If this meant creating some distance for practical reasons, he was willing.

GROW TOGETHER

One of the keys to healthy application is realizing that when God teaches us something, living out that lesson will almost always involve other people. Note how the following questions move you in that direction.

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.

- 7 What does trusting God look like in your life right now?
- 8 What kinds of baggage from your past or barriers in the present might be hindering your ability and willingness to trust God and the body of Christ?
- 9 What's wrong with this statement: "I want to be known as a follower of Jesus, but I don't want to have to trust Him in any meaningful way?"



SERMON NOTES

SHARE AND WORSHIP *TOGETHER*

To close your time together, spend some time worshiping God together—praying, singing, and reading Scripture.

- 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.

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 Philippians 2:4

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

Reflect:

How does trusting God translate into less concern about self and more interest in helping others and the Body of Christ?

DAY 2

Read Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Reflect:

This is the alternative to worry Jesus offers in the extended passage of Matthew 6:25-34. In what ways is worry a clue that we're not trusting God?

DAY 3

Read Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Reflect:

How do these verses describe the way you're approaching your participation in the ALL IN Initiative?

Action Steps:

During this week think about areas where you've struggled to really trust God. Every day this week as you begin your day, pray that God will give you the strength to trust him.

DAY 4

Read Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Reflect:

In what ways is your heart involved in your responses to the ALL IN Initiative?

DAY 5

Read Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Reflect:

If faith and trust are closely related in our relationship with God, what evidence is apparent in your life that you believe "that He is" and you believe "that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him?"

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.

ALL THINGS
ALWAYS
ONER & GLORY OF GOD

Justus
Jeness
Jordan
Felicia

Jeremiah 29:11
For I know the plans I
have for you says the
Lord. Plans to give you
HOPE & a FUTURE!
9.14.13 Heather, Joshua, Dannie

you ROCK,
ROCK
Church!
-JP

Dear Jesus,
Bless all the
your sanctuary.
Is saved in the
For you are our
We love you
-AMEN

THANK YOU GOD FOR A SECOND CHANCE
YOU ARE ALMIGHTY!!! I CAN'T
WAIT TO WALK SIDE BY SIDE WITH
YOU IN HEAVEN. I LOVE YOU &
PRAISE YOU. MAY WE BE COME
IN ALL YOU GIVE US.
MARIO MORALES
2013

JESUS

THANK YOU FOR
YOUR LOVE, GRACE
AND MERCY. AMIN

"As for me and this
house we will
serve the Lord"
The Nohara Family 2013

[illegible]

· (Philippians 3:7-8 NKJV)

