



Discussion Guide
Week 4 – March 1-7, 2009

SESSION TITLE: Journey Through The Wall

BOOK READING: Chapter 6

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Genesis 22:1-12

CONNECTING (10 minutes)

1. Last week was a week of looking back at the influences from the past. Has looking back been challenging for you? If yes, any reasons why?
2. Were there any new discoveries or surprises for you that you would feel comfortable sharing?

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In our society we are conditioned to avoid pain at all cost but every follower of Jesus will hit the Wall of painful circumstances or situations at some point of their journey. It comes, perhaps, through a divorce, a job loss, a death of someone close to you, a cancer diagnosis, a betrayal, a shattered dream, a wayward child, a car accident, an inability to get pregnant, a deep desire to be marry that remains unfulfilled or even a time of dryness in your relationship with God. Emotionally healthy spirituality requires that you go **THROUGH** that Wall – or, as one person wrote several hundred years ago called it, “*the dark night of the soul.*” God uses these Walls in our spiritual journey to radically **transform our character**. Failure to understand and surrender to God’s working in us at the Wall often results in great long-term pain, on-going immaturity and confusion. Receiving the gift of God in the Wall, however, transforms our lives forever.

[PLAY THE DVD VIDEO MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LES (SESSION 4)]

DISCOVERING (35 minutes)

[READ Genesis 22:1-12]

3. Abraham faces a Wall in his journey when God asks him to offer his son Isaac on the altar. What might have been some of the "dark night of the soul" questions or struggles you might have had if you were in his place?
4. What do you see in Abraham’s response in this passage that shows that through his journey he had come to trust God even in facing the Wall?

APPLYING (15 minutes)

5. If you have been through a Wall, share one way it impacted you and your view of God?
6. A lot of people get stuck and don’t make it through the Wall. What are some of the things that can be gained by going ahead and pressing through the Wall?

HOMEWORK

7. Consider your own spiritual journey. Are there walls you have hit? Are you avoiding the wall? Are you in the process of doing the work to get through the wall?

[CONSIDER GETTING INTO GROUPS OF 2 OR 3 AND PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER]