

## ***I AM - The Greatest Battle of Your Life***

### **Unit 6: God's Dream**

#### **Lesson 1:** Believe

##### **The Cave of Wisdom**

**The Burning Bush:** Believe in the “Unknown God”.

The Cave Opening:

Welcome back to the cave of “Stone Faces”, the worship of anything we can see that may bring a favorable result to our actions. The old saying “seeing is believing” still seems to apply today. Or how about “show me the money”, the now famous line from a movie.

Recently, on “Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?”, I saw a contestant wearing a trinket around his neck. It was his “good luck charm”. He had worn it continuously, except for cleaning the band, for over twenty years. Obviously this was what he placed his trust in for success.

We have numerous sport figures with special “routines” before a game or play. Do you have a superstition or “Stone Face” that you trust to help you? In our lesson today, we see Abram living in the land of Iran, or Ur of the Chaldeans, surrounded by people who worshiped many gods. One in particular, a fertility god, was worshiped or honored by his brother, Nahor, who had many children and credited the “stone face” idol for his offspring.

Abram was married to Sarah, whom he loved, but she had not given him a child. Why not ask the “fertility god” for help? If the god helped someone else, surely he would help Abram. But Abram was different. He didn’t believe in the superstition of many gods. He didn’t believe that the “Stone Faces” on idols had any power. But the “Unknown God”, the one with no face, had not as yet revealed himself to Abram. This is an amazing situation: Abram believed there was no value in clay idols that had a face made by men!

Abram was a true radical! He had not even seen the god he yearned to be in relationship with. But he was just the person the true God was looking for to make himself known to mankind again. God’s Dream for mankind has always been a dream of a special relationship, like a son or daughter. But that Dream had been smashed in the Garden of Eden upon the Tree of Knowledge. The journey of mankind back to that Dream was about to begin. Are you ready to grab the Dream for yourself? God has been waiting for you since you were first conceived in His mind, long before you were born.

**God’s Dream:** Believe in Him.

***Scripture: Ge 12:1-4; 15:6; Jn 14:11;***

<sup>1</sup> The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

<sup>2</sup> "I will make you into a great nation  
and I will bless you;  
I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you."

<sup>4</sup> So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran.

**Genesis 15:6** Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

**John 14:11** "*Believe me* when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves."

### **Biblical Character:** Abram

Act the part of Terah, father of Abram. Tell of leaving Ur of the Chaldeans and settling in Haran. Your clan is doing very well. You have many sheep and children. The king of Ur has taken note of your success and now demands a doubling of your tribute to him each year. This is a tremendous burden on the clan, so moving to Haran is a better option. Tell of the many gods served by the Chaldeans. Perhaps one god was

responsible for the clan's success, but there was no way to be certain which one, so all gods were served. But your son, Abram, refused to serve any of the gods.

Nahor, another son, offered sacrifices to a fertility god, among many others. His wife gave him many children. Abram refused to give offerings to any "Stone Face" and he had no children. Nahor blamed Abram's lack of children on his refusal to make offerings to the fertility god. Abram claimed he was called by an "unknown god", one with no stone face, and told to leave Haran and his father's house. Terah was too old to make the journey. He must watch his son leave Haran and go into the desert of the unknown future following a god that was also "unknown".

Show the video "Testament: Abraham"

***Modern Character(s): Jackie Robinson*** Show the video of the Jackie Robinson story. Discuss the difficulty Robinson had to fulfill his dream.

Barack Obama – Show video "The Obama Dream"

Show the video "First Put Your Mask On". Explain that we are to be about helping others.

Show "Martin Luther King speech to Obama speech: A dream realized?"

or show "Commemorative Video: Barack Obama & America: A Dream Realized"

or show “Field of dreams - Doc Graham steps forward”

or show “Field of Dreams Ray asks Doc his dream”

Discuss whichever of the videos you select to show. Barack Obama’s dream is reality fulfilled as President of the USA. While the “Field of Dreams” is a fictional movie, some of the characters were real and so were their dreams. Note that sometimes what we desire is not the Dream God intends for our life. Still we should be just as happy and content with our role as if we had what we wanted and even more: we should be fulfilled.

***The Tribe:*** In what do you place your trust? What you believe is the source of your Dream. The first step in knowing God’s Dream for you is to believe in Him and trust Him to keep his word.

**Craft:** Use stones approximately 4” tall and have members paint faces on these rocks. On the opposite side paint the international symbol for “no” (a circle with a slash).

**Recreation Activity:** “I Believe this is a \_\_\_\_”

Have everyone sit in a circle. Identify two teams within the circle (every other person or girls versus boys will do). Pick

up a representative object and tell the person next to you what it is only not really. For example: use a tennis ball and say, "I believe this is a marble." The individual receiving the item is to ask, "A what?" "A marble," you answer. "A what?" he asks again. "A marble," you say. "Oh, a marble," he says. The pattern is now established. He then takes the marble and turns to the next person and starts the pattern. As the tennis ball "marble" goes around, you start on the next object and the next object.

Eventually there will be a lot of these conversations going on at once. The goal is to see how many objects you can pass around the circle and the team identify by the wrong identity at the end.