

Faith Journey – In the Middle of a Crisis for God

by Carson Stutzman

FAITH STORY:

Acts 9:1-9, Genesis 22:1-8

SUMMARY:

These stories catch people of God in the middle of crisis situations when obedience to and following God is really tough. The Acts passage is Saul's confrontation with God that left him blind. The Genesis passage is when Abraham is called to sacrifice his own beloved son Isaac.

MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- Bibles for each student
- note cards, pens/pencils
- whiteboard

SESSION OUTLINE

FOCUS:

Welcome the students and spend a little bit of time talking about the highs/lows of their week. Encourage them to also think of a time when they felt stuck in a very uncomfortable situation—perhaps they thought they were doing the right thing but it wasn't easy, or they weren't sure what to do, or they were stuck between what their friends wanted them to do and what their parents said, etc.

CONNECT:

Make the following statements and tell students to indicate whether they are True or False, in their opinion. Here are options on how they can indicate their answers:

- 1 Have them text your cell phone
- 2 Move to one side of the room for true and one for false
- 3 Yell out their answer as loud as possible

- 1 When God asks people to do something, they will have the assurance from God that they are doing the right thing.
- 2 When God asks people to do something, the outcome will always be good.
- 3 People in the Bible felt abandoned by God.
- 4 Jesus had times when he felt stuck and wasn't sure how to do what God wanted him to do.
- 5 God will not ask you to do something that hurts you.

Discuss the responses.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE:

1 Ask for volunteers to be a part of a skit. Give those who volunteer time to read the faith story (Acts 9:1-9) and assign their parts—voice of God, Saul, high priest, Saul's friends. Tell them to "overact"—to have fun with it.

After the skit, read the Bible story together.

2 Divide into small groups and ask them to read Genesis 22:1-8. Then ask them to discuss within their groups:

- 1 What is God doing in each of these stories? What is God's overall plan for each person? Does the person know that?
- 2 How is the person reacting to God's call?
- 3 What is similar about these stories? What is different?

Bring the groups back together and discuss their answers. Answers could include:

Both of these guys were in the middle of a crises—Saul was literally in the dark. Both of them were being called to obey God but it wasn't easy—it was very tough!

APPLY:

Ask students: Where do you fit in the Saul or Abraham story? About to kill your most beloved thing? What might God be asking you to sacrifice? Are you feeling blind and confused? How would you react if something this drastic/mind-wrenching happened to you?

RESPOND:

Ask students to turn to Zephaniah 3:17. If you know the song based on this verse, sing it or play it. Read the verse, have students write it on note cards to take home. This verse assures us that no matter how messy things can be, The Lord our God is with us, saves us, takes delight in us, quiets us with his love, and rejoices over us with singing.