

## **Stages of Faith**

### **Reflective**

#### **Day 1: Welcoming the Divine Presence**

**Reading: Genesis 18:1-15**

Abraham's encounter with the three visitors reminds us that God often comes to us in unexpected ways. Just as Abraham welcomed these strangers with generous hospitality, we too are called to be open and receptive to God's presence in our daily lives. Today, reflect on times when you may have encountered God unexpectedly. How can you cultivate a spirit of hospitality and openness to divine encounters? Consider ways you might "welcome" God into your routines, relationships, and decisions today.

#### **Day 2: From Fear to Faith**

**Reading: Genesis 12:10-20**

Early in his journey, Abraham's fear led him to deceive others about his relationship with Sarah. Yet we see his faith grow over time. Our spiritual journey often involves moving from fear to faith, from self-preservation to trust in God's promises. Reflect on areas in your life where fear might be holding you back. How can you take a step towards greater trust in God today? Remember, growth in faith is a process - be patient with yourself as you learn to rely more fully on God's faithfulness.

#### **Day 3: The Power of Reflection**

**Reading: Psalm 139:23-24**

The sermon emphasized the importance of spiritual reflection, likening it to the Wesleyan question, "How is it with your soul?" Deep introspection allows us to honestly assess our relationship with God and areas for growth. Take time today to sit quietly with this question. What do you discover about the state of your soul? Where do you sense God's presence, and where do you feel distance? Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your reflection and reveal areas where God is inviting you into deeper relationship or transformation.

#### **Day 4: God's Presence in Life's Transitions**

**Reading: Isaiah 43:1-3**

Life is full of transitions - some joyful, some painful. The sermon reminded us that God is present even in our grief and times of change. Whatever transition you may be facing - retirement, health challenges, relocation, or internal spiritual shifts - know that God promises to be with you. Reflect on a current or recent transition in your life. Where do you see evidence of God's presence? How might this change be an opportunity for spiritual growth? Ask God for the grace to trust His guidance through this season.

#### **Day 5: Living with Open-Ended Trust**

**Reading: Hebrews 11:8-12**

Abraham's journey of faith required "open-ended trust" in God's promises, even when circumstances seemed impossible. This kind of trust doesn't come easily - it's cultivated through experiences of God's faithfulness over time. Consider an area of your life where God may be calling you to step out in faith. What makes it challenging to trust fully? Reflect on past experiences of God's faithfulness to encourage your heart. Ask God for the courage to trust Him more deeply, knowing that He is faithful to fulfill His promises in His perfect timing.