

FIELD-TESTED SERMON RESOURCES

SERMON SERIES

TRUSTED | BIBLICAL | FIELD-TESTED

Thank you for downloading this sample PDF from our Sermon Series line of resources.

When you stand up in front of students proclaim the Word of God, you need trusted, creative, Biblically solid content. YM360's Sermon Series is exactly what you're looking for.

Field-tested, from-the-trenches of youth ministry, YM360 Sermon Series are complete sermon outlines and graphic packages designed to help you lead students closer to God through proclaiming His Word.

SERIES OVERVIEW FOR AUDACIOUS

Audacious is probably not a word that you use every day, but it's most definitely something you've seen play out. Audacious explorers have discovered new lands, crossed uncharted oceans, and even walked on the moon. Audacious thrill-seekers have jumped out of airplanes, swam with sharks, and climbed the highest mountains. Audacious teenagers have led bold movements, influenced political leaders, and fought for justice in our world. To be audacious means to have a willingness to take surprisingly bold risks.

Throughout the pages of Scripture, countless men and women lived out an audacious faith. They took bold risks made and a significant impact in the Kingdom of God. In this series, we'll look at the lives of four people in the Bible who lived out an audacious faith and changed the course of history. We'll unpack their stories and talk about how we can live out an audacious faith today.

"AUDACIOUS" COVERS THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AND PASSAGES:

- **SESSION 1:** Genesis 22:1-22- "Abraham" In this first session, we will look at Abraham's life and how God used him in a mighty way. Students will see that we can live audacious when we trust and obey God.
- **SESSION 2:** 1 Samuel 17- "David" In this session, we will look at the story of David and Goliath. Students will see that they can live audacious when they choose faith over fear.
- **SESSION 3:** 1 Kings 18:17-39- "Elijah" In this session, we'll look at the story of Elijah in the epic showdown at Mount Carmel. We'll learn that audacious faith means taking a bold stand for God, even when you're standing alone.
- **SESSION 4:** Esther 2-5- "Esther" In this final session, we'll look at the story of Esther and talk about how God positioned her in the right place for His purposes. We'll learn that audacious faith means taking big risks to follow God-sized opportunities.

BACKGROUND SLIDES, PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK, AND MORE . . .

Each YM360 Sermon Series comes with title and background slides, promotional art (including Instagram images), and logo treatments. Here is what to expect.

BACKGROUND AND TITLE SLIDES



PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK



INSTAGRAM IMAGES



LOGO TREATMENT

AUDACIOUS

NOTE: Each YM360 Sermon Series also comes with the native files of the logo in case you want to replicate the design for other uses.

Audacious Sermon Series Overview

The Sermon Series Overview is a one-page glimpse of the stuff you need to know to begin preparing to preach.

- **Session 1 Purpose:** In this first session, we will look at Abraham's life and how God used him in a mighty way. Students will see that we can live audacious when we trust and obey God.
- **Scripture Passages:** Genesis 22:1-22
- **Supporting Passages:** Romans 4:18-21, Proverbs 3:5-6, Hebrews 11:8
- **Session 1 Snapshot:** God called Abraham in a mighty way. Abraham was willing to take a bold risk to respond in faith the calling God had for him. Through Abraham, God built an entire nation. By looking at the life of Abraham, students can see how they can put their faith in action and follow God's plan for their lives.
- **What You Need:**

Details on Audacious Sermon Series Outlines

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- **Session 1: Abraham:** In this first session, we will look at Abraham's life and how God used him in a mighty way. Students will see that we can live audacious when we trust and obey God.
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- **Session 3: Elijah:** In this session, we'll look at the story of Elijah in the epic showdown at Mount Carmel. We'll learn that audacious faith means taking a bold stand for God, even when you're standing alone.
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Throughout the pages of Scripture, countless men and women lived out an audacious faith. They took bold risks made and a significant impact in the Kingdom of God. In this series, we'll look at the lives of four people in the Bible who lived out an audacious faith and changed the course of history. We'll unpack their stories and talk about how we can live out an audacious faith today.

How To Use Audacious Sermon Series

This sermon series outline is designed for use by a communicator in a large group setting. It provides the illustrations, pictures, Scriptures, background information, and application points that you will need to prepare your lesson. It also includes discussion questions that could be used in a small group following the message, a parent page that gets families involved, and artwork for promotion or message support.

These sermons are designed to be useful for all types of groups and churches, and you should feel free to make adjustments that benefit your particular circumstance.

I. INTRODUCTION

- a. Hey everyone. Welcome back. So glad you're here as we start our new series tonight!
- b. Series Intro
 - i. How many of you have ever heard of the word Audacious?
 - ii. Look at the person next to you and say Audacious.
 - iii. When you hear the word audacious, what comes to mind? (get crowd interaction)
- c. The word Audacious is probably not a word you use every day, but it is definitely something you've seen play out.
 - i. Audacious explorers discovered new lands, crossed uncharted oceans, even walked on the moon. (add any other big things like these to prove this point)
 - ii. Audacious thrill-seekers have jumped out of airplanes, swam with sharks, climbed the highest mountains (add any other big things like these to prove this point)
 - iii. Audacious teenagers have led bold moments, influenced political leaders, and fought for justice.
 - iv. *[TIP: Google some pictures of these pictures of someone in space, crossing the ocean, etc. to show as you are speaking.]*
- d. To be audacious means to have a willingness to take surprisingly bold risks.
 - i. Throughout Scripture, countless men and women lived out an audacious faith.
 - ii. They took bold risks and made a huge impact in the Kingdom of God
- e. Over the next several weeks, we'll look at the lives of four people in the Bible who were audacious in their faith and changed the course of history

II. Transition Story: [Eric Liddle <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/reviews/for-the-glory/>

- a. Recap this story to your students and highlight how Eric was audacious in his faith. He was willing to turn down his number one run because it was on a Sunday. Use this story to help build into the story tonight of another man who was audacious in his faith.]
- b. Today, we're going to look at another person who was audacious in their faith. A person who was willing to be bold. His name is Abraham.
 - i. We'll see how God called Abraham to big things.
 - ii. Abraham was willing to take bold risks and obey what God called him to do.
 - iii. We'll see through Abraham that we show our faith when we TRUST and OBEY. That's our big idea for the night. [repeat the big idea phrase]
- c. Background of Abraham
 - i. Sometimes there are stories in the Bible that are hard to wrap our head around. This is one of them. However, we have much to learn about God and our faith from this.
 - ii. Abraham was an old man. Long ago, he got a promise from God that he would be the father of a great nation. This means he had to have children.
 - iii. At the age around his 70's and 80's, he still has no children. Can you imagine how Abraham and his wife Sarah would have felt?
 1. He received this promise from God but still had no children.
 - iv. Then, out of nowhere, he has this incredible little boy. His name is Isaac. As an old man and old woman, the promise came true and the child they dreamed and hoped for came into their lives.
 - v. This is a real story. Real love. A brand new dad here. Ready to start a new life as a family.
 1. Posting to Instagram all the new things their son does.

2. They enjoy changing those nasty diapers because they are just so happy to have a child.
 3. They celebrate when Isaac says mommy and daddy or his first words.
 4. They did things together. Remember when your parents helped you ride a bike? They got to experience that except it was probably a donkey or something.
 5. They are so alive and so happy.
- vi. And then we have Genesis 22. The moment where Abraham and God have a conversation, and we see what God asks Abraham next.
1. Read Genesis 22:1-12
- vii. So, let's break down our big idea. When we show our faith, we TRUST and OBEY.

III. Trust God

- a. Can you imagine Abraham's reaction?
 - i. How would you have responded? I'm sure I know how I would react.
 - ii. Taken my children and ran as far away from that mountain as possible.
 - iii. Abraham thinks, "This is my child. I've waited my whole life for him, and you want me to do this?"
 - iv. But Abraham responds in faith and trusts God and says okay.
 - v. One other passage of Scripture says it this way about Abraham's trust: Read Romans 4:18-21
 1. Despite what was happening around him. He believed in God's promises.
 2. He chose to believe and trust in God.
 3. Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. Never lost hope. He always believed in God's promises.
- b. We show our faith in God when we trust Him.
 - i. It may not always make sense and may not be easy, but throughout all of Scripture, this theme appears...trust God:
 1. When the people of God wandered in the desert, they were told to trust God.
 2. When Paul was beaten in prison, he trusted God.
 3. When David was battling Goliath, he trusted God.
 4. When Elijah fought against false prophets, he trusted God.
 5. When Mary became pregnant with Jesus, she trusted God.
 6. *[Share any other quick stories in the Bible that teach about trusting God.]*
- c. Read Proverbs 3:5-6
 - i. What does it mean to trust?
 1. Turn to the person next to you and tell them what it means to trust.
 2. God's Word calls us to TRUST with all of our hearts.
 - ii. Definition of trust: assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something...one in which confidence is placed.
- d. We show our trust in things all the time.
 - i. We trust people, relationships, and things.
 1. When you cut the light switch on, you trust the light to cut on
 2. When you get in your car, you trust it'll take you to where you're going
 3. When you eat the meal, your mom or dad cooks, you trust it's going to be good.
 4. *Share any other quick ideas on things we trust every day.*
 - ii. As you know, trust can make or break a relationship.
 1. When someone breaks your trust, you have a hard time around them, a hard time being in a relationship with them.

2. When you trust someone, you give everything to it, no holding back.
- e. Proverbs 3 tells us to trust in God even when we don't fully understand or see the whole picture. We trust God even when we are uncertain.
 - i. Despite this impossible task God gave to Abraham, we see his response. He trusted God and obeyed Him. He depended on God for everything in life.
 - ii. When we trust God, we invite Him to work in us. We will see how He works because we depend upon Him.
 - f. Earlier in Abraham's life, God promised him a son [see Gen 12]
 - i. This promise said that through Abraham, God would make him a great nation.
 - ii. Abraham trusted that God would provide a son and fulfill that promise.
 - iii. He may not have known what or how God would do this, but he trusted Him.
 1. Just because it may not be the plan we have always thought of does not mean it's not a good plan or even a better plan.
 - iv. We can look to Abraham and see a man who had audacious faith, a man who was bold, and a man who trusted God in heaven.
 - g. Read Genesis 22:5. "We will come right back." From the very beginning of the journey up the mountain, Abraham knew God would provide. He trusted God with the future.
 - h. What would it look like for you to trust God with your life? Do you trust Him?
 - i. Not just in the simple everyday things but with your whole life.
 - ii. Trust God by listening to Him and asking Him what He wants to do in your life. Trust Him by giving your life to Him.
 - iii. How do you know if you trust Him? Ask yourself, "Does God have the authority in my heart and over my life to accomplish His plans, or am I the one calling the shots?"
 - i. *Blank Paper Illustration*
 - i. *[have a blank sheet of paper with you with your signature at the bottom of the page. The page will represent your life. This is to illustrate that you are 'signing' your life over to God, and you want Him to fill in all the details of your life. You are trusting God to put the rest of the life on that page, and you're showing God that you're trusting Him with the future of your life.]*
 - j. Lastly, one of Satan's biggest lies in the world is to tell us that God cannot be trusted. It is a lie. God is trustworthy, so trust Him. He never fails, His promises are true, and He is deserving of our trust.
 - k. So, if living with audacious faith means to trust God and obey...now, we must:

IV. Be Obedient to God's Plans

- a. Read Genesis 22:13-18
- b. Abraham obeyed and took Isaac up the mountain, and we see how God honored his obedience.
 - i. The reality for us tonight is that God may not be calling you to something like this, but He is calling you to a life of obedience. A life of trusting Him and obeying what He is calling you to do in life.
- c. This isn't the first time we see Abraham trusting and being obedient to God.
 - i. Earlier, in Genesis 12, we see how God called Abraham to go into a new land. A land away from everything he knew...friends, family, comfort.
 - ii. Even then, Abraham wasn't given a crystal-clear picture of what life would look like.
 1. He had a choice to make. Either ignore or trust it.

2. Throughout Abraham's life, we constantly see him trusting God and obeying Him.
3. Think about your life...is trusting God and obeying Him a common theme for you? Or is something you do when it is convenient?
 - iii. Abraham didn't argue, hesitate or wait until a better moment...he simply obeyed.
- d. Have you ever felt God calling you out of your comfort zone?
 - i. Maybe it was to encourage someone.
 - ii. Share Jesus with someone.
 - iii. Pray for someone.
 - iv. Invite someone to church.
 - v. [share other quick ideas on how God can call a teen out of their comfort zone]
 - vi. What was your response? Were you obedient?
- e. Read Hebrews 11:8.
 - i. By faith, Abraham obeyed.
- f. Before we close, I want to share one more point. If we left this story here, that would be amazing, but something even greater is happening here. Something that is pointing forward or foreshadowing to something greater. This story points us to an even greater story.

V. A Greater Sacrifice

- a. Picture this:
 - i. Abraham is watching his son build this altar, knowing what is about to happen next. Isaac looks up to his dad and says, what are we sacrificing.
 - ii. Abraham, with such sadness and confusion says I don't know why, but it's you. And he begins to put his son on the altar.
 - iii. Can you imagine the emotion here?
 - iv. All of a sudden, Abraham hears God call out to him saying, don't hurt the boy. And the next thing Abraham heard and saw was a ram up the way that was stuck in the bush.
 - v. We see here that God provided a sacrifice for Abraham and Isaac.
- b. In this story, we see God provide the sacrifice.
 - i. We see direct similarities to the sacrifice of Jesus in the New Testament.
 - ii. In Genesis 22, we read this story that Abraham loved God so much that he would sacrifice his only son in obedience to God. In the New Testament, we read of how God loved this world, you and me, so much that He was willing to sacrifice His own Son for us.
 - iii. Can you see that?
 - iv. Read John 3:16. Doesn't this verse sound so clear in light of Genesis 22? God was willing to give up His own Son to be that sacrifice for us.
- c. God knew what we needed, and no matter how hard or difficult it was for Him, He was willing to provide for us.
 - i. Because of the sin in our lives, we are separated from God, and the reality is a ram, or anything else would never be enough to heal that separation.
 - ii. The only thing would be God's perfect Son. Jesus. So, God sent Jesus to be our sacrifice, just like He sent that ram to be the sacrifice for Abraham's son.
- d. Isaac carried the wood on the journey to his sacrifice. In the New Testament, we see Jesus carry on His back the cross where He would be sacrificed.
 - i. If you have ever doubted or needed a reminder or never heard that God loves you...
 - ii. Look to the cross.

- iii. God sent His Son Jesus to die for our sin, to be our sacrifice. When Jesus sacrificed Himself, God provided a way to have a relationship with Him and to find forgiveness for our sins.
- e. In Genesis 22, we see how God provided a substitute so that Isaac would not have to die. In the New Testament, we read that Jesus became our substitute, so we wouldn't have to die.
 - i. The Bible teaches us that sin requires payment. Sin has consequences. The world cannot sin against a perfect and holy God and just get away with it. God did not set this world up that way. So, God sent Jesus to pay the punishment for our sins.

VI. Conclusion

- a. This is a big deal. This is the Gospel. We can't look to Abraham and Isaac without seeing our perfect Savior, Jesus, who came to this Earth for you and me.
- b. When it comes to being audacious in our faith, it starts with trusting and obeying God.
 - i. God sees this world and sees you and has great plans for you. You may not fully see them or fully understand them, but God calls you to trust Him and obey Him.
 - ii. Abraham trusted God and obeyed Him, even when it was hard.
- c. For some of you, it may be hard to trust God or be obedient to Him.
 - i. Some of you right now are ignoring something big that God is calling you to do.
 - ii. My challenge to you: will you be like Abraham and obey Him? Will you live out an audacious life?
 - iii. Who knows how a world or life might change if you trust Him and obey. Who knows what God could do through you?
- d. For some of you, your first step tonight is to trust God. *[this is a gospel presentation/invitation time]*
 - i. God loves you. sent His perfect Son to this earth for you. He is worth trusting. I can promise you.
 - ii. Trusting God means you know Him and have your own relationship with Him. You can't really trust someone without knowing them.
 - iii. Trusting Him with your life means you have put your faith in Jesus as your Savior. You've recognized that He came to be a substitute for you.
 - iv. If there has never been that time in your life where you have trusted God, we would love to talk with you more about that tonight.
- e. If you are here tonight and you trust God, and you want to be more obedient, I challenge you to take a moment and ask God to give you the strength to obey Him even in the hard things.
 - i. And for those of you who have Jesus as your Savio, would you begin to take the challenge to trust and obey and live an audacious faith?
- f. Lastly, for all of us. May we never forget that we all have the one and only true God, who is perfect in Heaven. Who loves you. Who loves you enough to give up His only Son so that you can find life and not be forever separated from God.

Small-Group Discussion Questions

You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your sermon, or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to help students think critically about the sermon and what it means to them.

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from the message, and why?
2. What is the boldest thing you have ever done?
3. How have you seen God provide for you in the past? What was it, and how did that make you feel?
4. What is your initial reaction after hearing Genesis 22? How does your understanding of John 3:16 change when you hear that story?
5. Where in your life do you need to trust God more? What would it look like for you to trust God in all areas of your life throughout this week?
6. What do you think was going through Abraham's mind when God told him to sacrifice Isaac?
7. Part of trusting God with all our heart is in letting go of control over our lives to God. We trust God with our life and future. What areas of your life are hardest to give up control or trust God in? (family, friendships, sports, etc.)
8. Why does it make sense to trust God over your own understanding of things? What are reasons we rely or depend on our own understanding rather than trusting God? What would have happened if Abraham depended upon his own understandings?