

Abraham: Life of Faith

Week 4 – Genesis 15:1-6

Leaders' Notes

We have intentionally included many options for Bible study and discussion this week. This is because these short six verses contain so many rich biblical themes. If one particular direction leads to a meaningful discussion, feel free to go with that as opposed to feeling the need to hit every question.

Ice Breaker Question:

Is there someone in your life whom you would trust absolutely with anything - i.e. your life, your children, etc.? If so, who?

Going Deeper from Sunday

Sermon Synopsis

After the events of Gen. 14, God appears to Abram in a vision, telling him not to be afraid, that he is his shield and reward. Abram then questions God about what reward he can give him since he has no children. God assures him that he will have children as numerous as the stars in the sky. Then the scripture says, "Abram believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness."

Key Application

God has given us incredible promises. What he desires of us is that we put our faith in Him and trust in those promises.

Follow-up Questions

Read over Genesis 15:1-6 . Are there any reflections or questions you had from Sunday's Sermon?

The first words to Abram from the Lord are "Don't be afraid." What was he afraid of? What do verses 1-6 imply that he could be afraid of? How does that compare with what he could be afraid of from the events of Genesis 14?

Why was having no heir so troubling?

- What would it have implied about God's promise in Gen 12:2 and 13:16?
- How does God respond to that fear?

What is the difference between the protection and provision the world provides and the protection and provision (shield and reward) of God?

What is it about belief, that was so critical to God, that for Abraham it became righteousness (v. 6)? What did Abram believe? What do you think he means by righteousness?

Question for Reflection

In this passage, four phrases/ideas appear for the first time in the Bible:

“the Word of the Lord came to Abram”

“fear not (do not be afraid)”

“I am your shield”

“Abram believed God...”

Each of these become powerful and repeated ideas throughout Scripture. Discuss how each of these ideas is central to our faith in God and to you personally.

Mining the Scriptures

Hebrews 11:6-13

How is faith defined here (v.6)? Why is it a requirement if we want to please God?

Think about the difference between believing a chair is strong enough to support you and actually sitting in it. It is “by faith” that we sit down and receive rest. What other, similar examples of exercising “faith” in your everyday life can you think of?

How does faith accomplish great acts? i.e. “by faith Noah ...”, “by faith Abraham...”

Romans 4:18-25

How does this passage in Romans help us to understand what Abraham believed and why God finds faith so important?

What is the connection the Apostle is making about the faith of Abraham and the faith we have in Jesus?

Application questions

In what areas of your life are you finding it the hardest to trust God?

Close in prayer

Spend some time praying for each other.