



Welcome + Opening Prayer

Genesis 15:1-21

See passage printed on the back of this page.

THEMATIC OVERVIEW

What does it mean to walk by faith with God, trusting in what he has promised, while being honest, too, about our doubts, fears, and confusion?

What guarantees has God made that he will be faithful in what he has promised?

Explore + Apply

1. Abraham is learning how to take his questions about God *to* God; learning that he can express fear and doubt to God— that his relationship with God is a safe place for confusion and concern. If you have a relationship with God, how have you— or not— experienced the same safety or freedom? What might it mean to go to God with questions, or to involve him in wisdom-seeking or decision-making?
2. What are barriers that limit your ability or desire to have a posture of curiosity with God? What do you believe about God's posture toward you as someone with curiosity (doubts, skepticism, confusion or ignorance)?
3. Through the covenant that God 'cuts' with Abraham by passing through the halved animals, God does an audacious thing. He takes upon himself the entire burden of the covenant, saying, in effect, that if *either* party is unfaithful, 'may this happen to me— may I become as these animals.'

If this is God's promise to those who trust him, that he will (and has, in Jesus Christ) by sheer grace pay the price of your failure, how does/might this shape the way you view and 'carry' your own inadequacy and limitations? How does/might this reality impact your decision-making processes, or freedom to have questions?

PRAYER GUIDELINES

In prayer, we ask God to transform us and the world around us with His grace.

Pray

- Pray and listen: How might God reorient our hearts for the 'journey' of life with him, as opposed to bearing the false burden of needing to be self-sufficient?
- Pray "Thy Kingdom come" in your neighborhood, city, nation, and around the world, specifically that more and more people would encounter the life-giving mercy of God, his blessing that enables us to bless others.

Home Groups are a vital part of shared life and growth in Christ. Here, we build community, deepen relationships, and discover and live the Christian life together.

GROUP SCHEDULE - SPRING

Next: week of Feb 24

Genesis 15:1-21

1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." 2 But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." 4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." 5 And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." 6 And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

7 And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." 8 But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" 9 He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." 10 And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. 13 Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. 14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. 16 And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, 19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."