

# ABRAHAM'S FAITH

Genesis 15 // January 22, 2023



## Prepare Your Heart & Mind

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.

## Reflect/Connect

Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

## Grow in the Word

These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

# FAITHFUL

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM

## REFLECT/CONNECT

- In what ways were you encouraged by last week's study?
  
- What are some things our society trusts in for safety, security, and wellbeing?



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After a series of events involving a great rescue of his nephew Lot, the Lord came to Abram in a vision. The Lord affirmed his presence and his promise to Abram, yet Abram sought clarity regarding his childlessness (v. 1-3).

- What stands out to you about God's words to Abram in verse 1?
- Why do you think Abram asked God to give him clarity about his promises? Was he afraid, confused, disbelieving, or something else?
- How much freedom do you feel to verbalize your fears and/or questions before God?

God replied to Abram's questions with kindness and clarity. God would provide a child from Abram's own body, and countless descendants thereafter. Abram responded with faith that God credited to him as righteousness (v. 4-6).

- What do you learn about God based on how he interacted with Abram in this dialogue?
- What does it mean that Abram's faith was "credited as righteousness", and why does it matter? Compare translations of verse 6. See also Romans 4:5, 16-25; Galatians 3:6-9, 14, 26-29.

- How does this passage inform your view of your own sin, faith, and/or relationship with God?

God repeated his promise to bless Abram with land that would be handed down to his descendants. God shored up Abram's faith by formalizing his promises through a covenant ceremony (v. 7-21). See below for a note about the ceremony.

"The ceremony corresponded to the ancient custom of slaughtering animals when concluding a covenant, and after dividing them into pieces, of laying the pieces opposite to one another, that the persons making the covenant might pass between them. . . . God condescended to follow the custom of the Chaldeans, that He might in the most solemn manner confirm His oath to Abram the Chaldean." C. F. Keil and F. Delitzsch, *Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament*, vol. 1, *The Pentateuch*, trans. James Martin (Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark, 1872), 214.

- Why do you think this ceremony was important for Abram? Notice the content of Abram's questions throughout chapter 15.
- What promises did God make to Abram in this covenant? See also Genesis 12:1-3, 7.
- In what ways does this story encourage or challenge you in the midst of your own seasons of fear, waiting, questions, or doubt?

**GENESIS (PART 2) BY THE BIBLE PROJECT**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4isSyennFo>

This animated short tells the story of the start of God's work to rescue and bless his rebellious world by providing an overview of the second half of the book of Genesis, and by outlining how God moved towards redemption by choosing to bless a man named Abram.

**ABRAHAM: ONE NOMAD'S AMAZING JOURNEY OF FAITH - CHUCK SWINDOLL**

<https://www.amazon.com/Abraham-Nomads-Amazing-Journey-Faith/dp/141438064X>

The real-life story of Abraham as told by Chuck Swindoll. In this biography, we encounter false gods, self-seeking glory, and the faith of a man named Abraham through whom God would bless the nations.

**THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM - THE GOSPEL COALITION**

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/the-life-of-abraham/#course-introduction>

This is a free, three-lesson course on the account of Abraham's life as described in Genesis offered by the Gospel Coalition. The course offers video, audio, and downloadable study guides.

**WHEN I LAY MY ISAAC DOWN - CAROL KENT**

<https://www.amazon.com/When-Lay-Isaac-Down-Circumstances/dp/1641582723>

Carol Kent looks to Abraham's faith as she describes her struggle and surrenders to God in the aftermath of her son's murder conviction and subsequent incarceration. Dealing with her anger, grief, and shame, Carol could have given up. Instead, she tells a highly personal, heartbreaking, and uplifting story that will bolster your faith.

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