

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. Pastor Ruben said, "God has revealed just enough for you to walk by faith." Do you feel like God is revealing to you the next step in your faith walk? Would you be willing to share it with your group?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. Genesis 15 can be broken up in two parts: Verse 1-6, is about a promise of people. Verses 7-21, is about a promise of land. This will help you understand this chapter. In Hebrew, Genesis chapter 15 is known as, "The covenant between the pieces". It's about God making a promise to Abram. It gives you a picture of what's to come in Genesis 15.

In Genesis 15, we see three stages that people go through when God reveals a promise to to them.

Have you experienced any of these stages?

- a) A Divine purpose.
 - b) An expression of apprehension.
 - c) A Divine reassurance.
3. Please read Genesis 15:1-6.
 - a. What are your first impressions of these verses?
 - b. What do you see?
 - c. What is the first thing God tells Abram in verse one?
 - a. What is the title Abram gives God in verse two, and what does it say about Abram's relationship with God?
 - b. What is Abrams's concern in verses 2-3?
 - c. What is God's answer?
 - d. According to verse five, what did God tell Abram to do?

- e. Genesis 15:6 is a huge verse. It's quoted in other places of the bible. The word "believed" literally means "believed in". The core message of this verse is, Abram believed in God BEFORE any events occurred. Is this hard or easy for you? Why or why not?
5. As a result of Abram's faith, what did God do? Please read the New Testament verses that reference Genesis 15:6. (Romans 4:1-3; Galatians 3:1-7; James 2:23).
6. Please read "Part 2" of this story (Genesis 15:7-21).
 - a. According to verse seven, what did God promise Abram?
 - b. What do the vultures (verse 11) represent? Compare with verse 12-13.
 - c. What happens in verse 17, and who or what does it represent?

Application

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- God has revealed just enough for you to walk by faith.
- The covenant that is mentioned in the bible...is a stunning blend of law and love. Stunning, because it's a personal relationship made more loving and intimate, because it is legal. It is this way through voluntary, mutual, binding promises and vows to be loving and to be faithful, no matter what the circumstances are. - Timothy Keller
- Before God reveals the next thing, you need to prove yourself in today's thing.
- God calls us to believe Him in the face of impossible circumstances, the unknown future, and our human reason.
- Covenant theology gives you a crunchy God. A God that's real. A God that bites back. A living God, pulling at the other end of the cord, approaching at infinite speed, the hunter, the covenant Lord, the husband. This is our God. - Timothy Keller