

the

GENESIS

EXPERIENCE

Session 6/Genesis 15

Group Ice Breaker: If God spoke directly to you and promised to give you something you really wanted, how would you feel? How would you feel 25 years later if nothing had happened yet?

Read Genesis 15: 1-21

Discussion

1. Are there times when you have had to take God at His word without knowing the details? How does that affect your relationship with Him? What enables you to trust God? What prohibits your trust in God?
2. What can you learn from Abram's experience that encourages your ability to trust God's promises?
3. When God refers to himself as Abram's shield, it symbolizes Kingship. How is God addressing Abram's reservations with this reference of Himself? (Keep in mind Abram's interaction with the king of Sodom just before this pronouncement Genesis 14:21-24).
4. The covenant ritual of dividing an animal in two and passing between the halves was a familiar practice of the time. In the covenant ceremony what do the birds of prey symbolize? How does that affect your view of our life on earth?
5. Who does the smoking fire pot represent? How did this vision of God address Abram's doubts?
6. What does the covenant ritual reveal about the seriousness of the commitment of God toward Abram? What sacrifice did God make that reflects the seriousness of His commitment to you?

Inductive Study Questions

1. Think about Sarai's life in this week's reading. What lessons did she learn?
2. How would you describe her relationship with God?
3. What did you learn about yourself through the life of Sarai?

Prayer Exercise – Praying God’s Promises

In thinking along the theme of promises in our study, it is important to remind ourselves of the promises God has made us. Take a look at the list below. Is there a topic and corresponding verse that especially resonates with you today? Perhaps there is something going on in your life right now and one of these promises speaks to that particular concern or desire.

Break up into groups of 3 and each share the verse you identified and why it is meaningful to you. Take a moment and pray your selected scripture over each other.

To experience the “streams of the living water” of the Holy Spirit – John 7:38-39a - To the one who believes in Me [Jesus], it is just as the Scripture has said: ‘Streams of living water’ will flow from within him. He was speaking about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive.

To experience compassion and forgiveness from God - Micah 7:18-19 – Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

To experience peace - John 14:27 - Peace I [Jesus] leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

To experience God’s sufficient grace - II Corinthians 12:9 - But he [the Lord] said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

To experience the transformative power of Scripture – II Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.