

Focus Verse

"Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness." – Genesis 15:6

FIRST DAY: Read the notes and the references.

- 1. Use this space to record how you have seen God's activity during the week. (How has He provided, answered, comforted, reconciled, guided, etc.?)
- 2. What from the week's Bible verses, lecture, notes or discussion has helped you in daily circumstances?

SECOND DAY: Read Genesis 15:1-6.

God reaffirmed his promise to give Abram descendants.

- 3. What do you know about shields and rewards that helps you understand God's promises in 15:1?
- 4. How did God's promise to be Abram's shield and great reward address Abram's fears?
- 5. a. What did Abram believe in 15:6?
 - b. What was the connection between belief and righteousness for Abram? What about today? (Use any Scripture references.)
- 6. How does God's interaction with Abram encourage, comfort or challenge you?

THIRD DAY: Read Genesis 15:7-21.

God confirmed His promises with a covenant. Note: Genesis 15:9-10, 17 describe the ceremonial rites that sealed a covenant

- 7. What truths about God's character and Abram's faith are revealed?
- 8. List prophetic promises in 15:13-16 and say how each was fulfilled. (Use Genesis 25:7-8; Exodus 6:11; 12:31-40; and any other references.)
- 9. How do you reconcile God's affirmation of Abram's belief (15:6) with Abram's continued questions?

10. What means does God use to reassure His people of His promises today? (See 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5; Ephesians 1:13-14; and other Scriptures for your answers.)

FOURTH DAY: Read Genesis 16:1-6.

Abram and Sarai sinned and conceived a child through Hagar. Note: Society in Abram's time accepted polygamy, but God ordains marriage for one man and one woman. Therefore, polygamy is outside of God's will and is sin. (See Genesis 2:24.)

- 11. a. How did Sarai and Abram show some faith and some unbelief in God's promise of Genesis 15:4-5?
 - b. What do you learn about the relationship between what we believe and how we behave?
- 12. a. What sins did Abram and Sarai commit in these verses? (Share Scripture references to support your answers.)
 - b. What were the immediate and long-term results of trying to gain something good through sin? (See also Genesis 12:10-20.)
- 13. What have you learned in this passage or by personal experience about waiting for God to fulfill His promises in His perfect way and time?

FIFTH DAY: Read Genesis 16:7-16.

The angel of the Lord affirmed blessings for Hagar and Ishmael.

- 14. Describe Hagar's natural expectations for remaining in Sarai's charge or for running away.
- 15. a. What promises did the angel of the Lord make to Hagar, and who did she believe the angel of the Lord to be?
 - b. What do you learn about God through His care for Hagar and Ishmael?
- 16. How has God provided unimaginable good to you through a seemingly impossible situation?

SIXTH DAY: Review Genesis 15-16.

- 17. What have you learned about how God provides for His people that encourages your faith?
- 18. Homiletics for group and administrative leaders: Genesis 15-16

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