

GENESIS

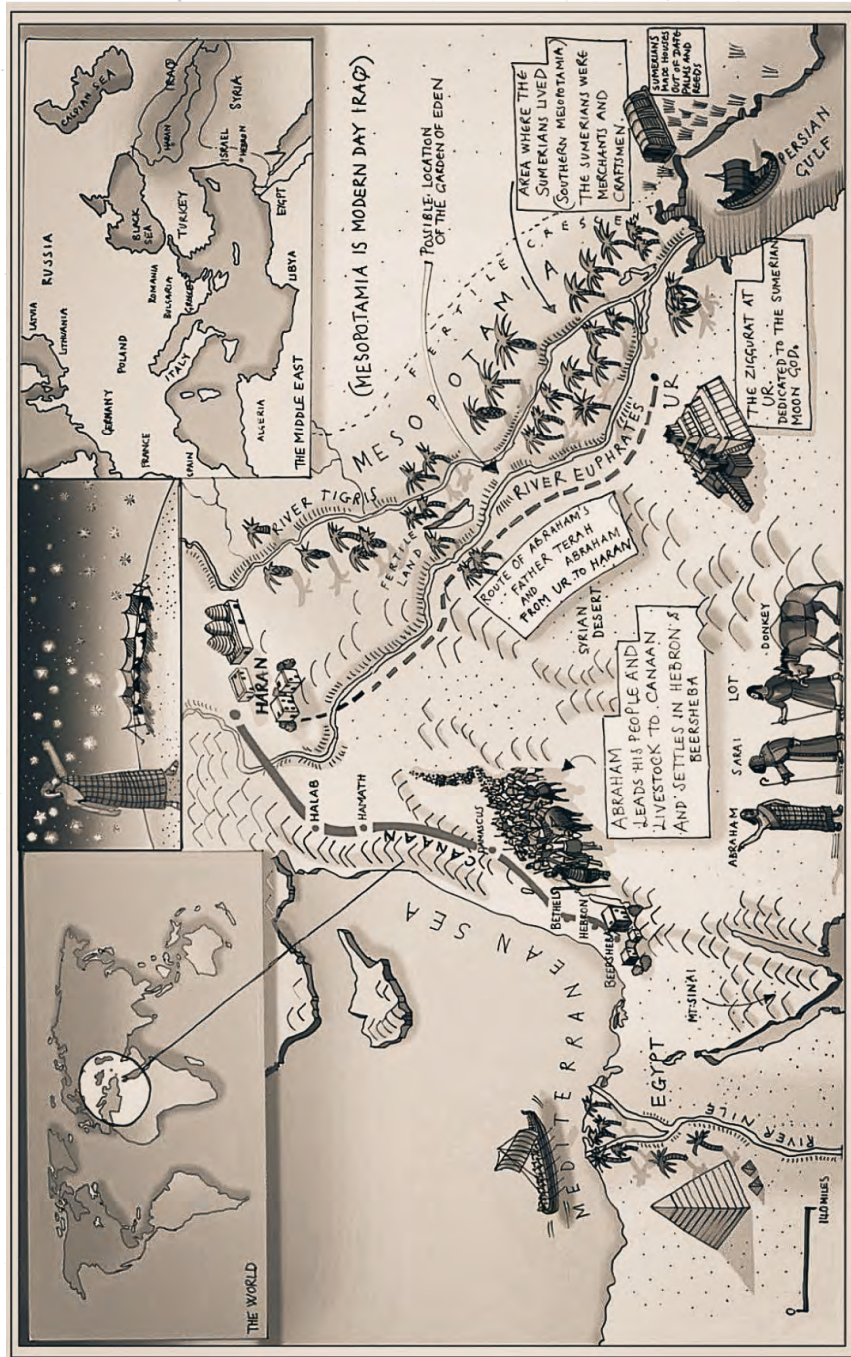


PART 2

God of Abraham & Isaac



ABRAHAM'S JOURNEY



PART 2 - GOD OF ABRAHAM & ISAAC

Week 9: CALLED – Gen 12

Week 10: GOING – Gen 13-14

Week 11: COVENANT – Gen 15

Week 12: COMMITMENT – Gen 16-17

Week 13: CONVERSATION – Gen 18

Week 14: CONSEQUENCES – Gen 19

Week 15: LAUGHTER – Gen 20-21

Week 16: TESTED – Gen 22

Week 17: PROVISION – Gen 23-24

Week 18: COVENANT – Gen 25-26

*I will make you into a great nation
I will bless the world through you*

CALLLED

Gen 12

PREPARE

The first 11 chapters of Genesis cover thousands of years and the whole earth while the rest of Genesis will cover few hundred years and zero in on one individual and his descendants. What is the author implying about the significance of this particular family? Matthew chapter 1 gives us a clue - revealing to us a plan that went way beyond Abraham and his children. Eve's promised seed who would crush the head of the serpent is the significance - and we know this is Jesus. But Adam, Eve, Abram & Sarai didn't know this. As our study takes us through the details and descriptions of their interactions let us not forget the big picture of what everything is pointing to - Father, Son, and Spirit working together to rescue the human race from the curse of sin. It all begins with a man who is called to leave his home and go to a place unknown, taking one step at a time with the God who called him.

Pray

asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's word.

Read Genesis 12

and answer the following questions.

What did Abram leave behind to follow God?*

Who went with Abram?

*UR was a port city at the mouth of the Euphrates with libraries, schools, wealth and power. Its ziggurat housed administrative offices on the lower levels and a temple to honor the moon god *Sin* about 100 ft above. The more prosperous citizens lived in two-story villas with plastered, whitewashed walls.

Summarize the promise the Lord makes with Abram.

Why did Abram go to Egypt? What was Abram afraid of?

Summarize what the Lord says and does in vs. 10-20

How do you think Pharaoh discerned the cause of his affliction?

Read through Genesis 12 again.

State in one sentence the main point of the passage.

List characteristics of Abram that you find in this chapter.

In what ways do you see God already working out his promise to Abram?

so Abram left, as the LORD had told him

ATTEND

REFLECT

What is your main takeaway from this passage?

What challenged you or encouraged you?

What did you learn about the character of God?

How did this week's study affect your perspective on God, yourself, and/or your life?

ACT

Note **one specific thing** you can do this week to put into practice what you learned from this passage?

Note **one specific person** you can share something you learned.

Name **one specific change** you will make in how you relate more deeply to God who **Calls**.

Who will you tell so they can support you as you act on God's word?



GOING

Gen 13-14

PREPARE

After his brief stint in Egypt, Abram returns to where he started and calls on the name of the Lord. What follows is quarreling and strife in his family, years of war among the kings in the area, a rebellion and the capture of his nephew who had ended up on the losing side. Abram mounts an army from his own household and three of his allies, rescues Lot, and then is visited by a mysterious king/priest named Melchizedek. The scriptures don't tell us anything about what Abram's first 75 years were like, but these past 15 have been quite eventful! God calls him to leave his home and go to a place unknown and the first thing we read is that there is a famine. Now there is a lot of fighting. Could it really be God's plan to lead him into such chaos and hardship? As you read these chapters pay attention to what Abram's choices reveal about his character, and the things God says and does to reassure Abram of His plan.

Pray

asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's word.

Read Genesis 13-14

and answer the following questions.

Where does Abram return and what is the significance of this place called Bethel?

What is the cause of the strife between Abram and Lot?

How many kings are involved in the battle and what are they fighting over?

What does this tell you about the place Abram is now living?

What did Abram do when Lot was taken captive?

What does this tell you about Abram's resources and position in the area?

What does Genesis 14:18 tell us about Melchizedek?

Read through Genesis 13-14 again.

Note the places Abram builds an altar to the Lord – and the circumstances surrounding those times.

What reassurances does God give Abram and when does He give them?

How does Abram's behavior set him apart from the surrounding kings?

there Abram called on the name of the LORD

ATTEND

REFLECT

What is your main takeaway from this passage?

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ACT

Note **one specific thing** you can do this week to put into practice what you learned from this passage?

Note **one specific person** you can share something you learned with.

Name **one specific change** you will make in how you relate more deeply to God who **Reassures**.

Who will you tell so they can support you as you act on God's word?



COVENANT

Gen 15

PREPARE

God continues to reveal Himself to Abram over time as he goes along. It has been years since Abram left home, and while he has amassed much wealth and his household has grown - he still has no children and owns no land. What did God's promises mean? How long will they take to come true? What continued hardships will this journey with God entail and how will Abram endure it all? God visits Abram and tells him not to be afraid. He answers Abram's questions, often in surprising ways with disheartening details. This next chapter lets us listen into Abram's intimate conversation with the God of the universe revealing to us deep and significant truths about who God is, how He relates to individuals personally and how He is at work in the world.

Pray

asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's word.

Read Genesis 15

and answer the following questions.

Read 15:1 with 14:21-24. What reward had Abram given up? What reward does God promise?

Look up the definition to the word *shield* and write it below.

What are Abram's questions? What do they reveal about his personal fears and doubts at this time?

Review Gen 12:2-3, 7. What new information does God promise Abram about his offspring in Gen 15?

List the three prophecies given in vs. 13-16. (optional- also list how they were fulfilled)

What passed between the cut pieces of animals to seal the covenant?

How do these symbols represent God? (see also Exodus 13:21-22)

Read through Genesis 15 again.

Did Abram ever 'sign' the covenant (by passing thru the animals?)

Compare Gen 15:6 with Romans 1:16-17 & Romans 4. How is righteousness credited to Abram compared to how it is credited to us?

From Galatians 3:15-29, who is Abraham's Seed. Who are Abraham's children and heirs (Galatians 3:28-29)?

count the stars...so shall your offspring be.

ATTEND

REFLECT

What doubts, fears, or questions do you have to take to God?

What is your main takeaway from this passage?

What challenged you or encouraged you?

What did you learn about the character of God?

How did this week's study affect your perspective on God, yourself, and/or your life?

ACT

Note **one specific thing** you can do this week to put into practice what you learned from this passage?

Note **one specific person** you can share something you learned with.

Name **one specific change** you will make in how you relate more deeply to God as **Shield and Great Reward**.

Who will you tell so they can support you as you act on God's word?



COMMITMENT

Gen 16-17

PREPARE

Things are about to get really messy, but God is not surprised and Abram cannot thwart or prevent God's redemption plan as it has never been dependent on Abram – it has always been dependent on God alone. Still, sin always hurts people and Abram and Sarai's actions, while culturally normal, are sinful. It is good to heed that warning while also maintaining the wonder of how Great and Profound God's mercy is. This first recorded appearance of the Angel of the Lord is to a single mother-to-be slave girl from Egypt with a pride problem! Additionally, this is the first time we read of God giving a name before birth, showing He has a plan for her child. While the promised Messiah and covenant will be with Abram and Sarai's son Isaac and the Hebrew people, we must not assume this means that God is not also personally involved in other nations of the world, including the Arab people (Ishmael's descendants.) As the psalmist says; the earth is the Lord's and everything in it. (Psalm 24:1) As you read this chapter, pay special attention to how God is relating to each individual according to His character revealed thus far in scripture. (from weeks 9-14; He calls, reassures, shields, and sees)

Pray

asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's word.

Read Genesis 16-17

and answer the following questions.

Who does God talk to in chapter 16?

What does this tell you about God's character?

Who chose Ishmael's name and what does the name mean?

Map the timeline - how long has it been since God promised Abram a son? How many years have passed from Ishmael's birth and God's talking again with Abram?

This time God doesn't just tell Abram what He will do, He asks Abram to do something in return. What did God ask Abram to do?

What are Abram and Sarai's new names and what does this change at this time signify?

Read through Genesis 16-17 again.

How is God's promise to Hagar similar to His promise to Abram? How is it different?

What additional information does God give to Abraham about Ishmael's promise?

Who laughs in this passage? What does this laugh mean?

walk before Me and be blameless

ATTEND

REFLECT

How does God relate to **each** individual according to His character as a God who calls, reassures, shields, and sees?

What is your main takeaway from this passage?

What challenged you or encouraged you?

What did you learn about the character of God?

How did this week's study affect your perspective on God, yourself, and/or your life?

ACT

Note **one specific thing** you can do this week to put into practice what you learned from this passage?

Note **one specific person** you can share something you learned with.

Name **one specific change** you will make in how you relate more deeply to God who **Sees**.

Who will you tell so they can support you as you act on God's word?



CONVERSATION

Gen 18

PREPARE

The conversations that take place in this chapter seem almost casual, like two old friends talking. One conversation is about miraculous life, the other about destruction and death. We also see here a contrast in the timing of the fulfillment of these two events. On the one hand we have years upon years upon years of waiting, then this final reassurance, yet still another whole year to wait for the promise to come true. On the other hand we have God's plan shared with Abraham one evening and then carried out within the week! Abraham is the one through whom God's *promised seed* will come and his family will significantly impact the entire world. In order to carry out this monumental task Abraham needs to understand some things about God, sin, and leadership. The Lord is consistent with His pattern of 'coming down', moving toward the sinner and dealing personally with the justice required. Abraham processes the information through the lens of character he knows is true; God does not flippantly destroy the creation He has made and loves. (see Ezekiel 18:23)

Pray

asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's word.

Read Genesis 18

and answer the following questions.

Who appeared to Abraham? (see John 1:18 with 1 Timothy 6:16)

What new information is given about the promised child?

What stands out to you in this conversation between God, Abraham, and Sarah?

Compare Genesis 18:14 with Luke 1:33-37. What makes these pregnancies impossible? What principle is God revealing with the details and timing of these three pregnancies?

From verses 18-20, What reason does God give for confiding in Abraham?

What stands out to you in this second conversation between God and Abraham?

Read through Genesis 18 again with Romans 4:18-24

As you trace the circumstances of Abraham's life thus far – what events have helped him become 'fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised.'? What comfort do you find in Abraham's example of *learning* how to live by faith?

In these conversations, what is revealed to us about God's character?

is anything hard for the LORD?

ATTEND

REFLECT

What is your main takeaway from this passage?

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What did you learn about the character of God?

How did this week's study affect your perspective on God, yourself, and/or your life?

ACT

Note **one specific thing** you can do this week to put into practice what you learned from this passage?

Note **one specific person** you can share something you learned with.

Name **one specific change** you will make in how you relate more deeply to God who **Draws Near**.

Who will you tell so they can support you as you act on God's word?



CONSEQUENCES

Gen 19

PREPARE

God said that the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah were exceedingly grave. If we didn't take God's word for it, the details given in this chapter of the evil all around affecting everyone are convincing. Lot escaped the destruction, but he lost everything. His wife lost her life and his daughters lost any moral compass or a right understanding of God's ways. Sin matters to God. It's consequences are real. *"what benefit do you reap from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things lead to death! For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 6:19-23) Throughout scripture we are warned to be careful about what we build our lives upon. Paul writes to the church in Corinth *"If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames."* (1 Corinthians 3:10-23) As you read this chapter, ponder how Lot's life illustrates this principle.

Pray

asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's word.

Read Genesis 19

and answer the following questions.

Trace the progression of compromise in Lot's life (see Genesis 13:10, 13:12, 14:12)

How does Lot demonstrate the same level of depravity as the men outside his door?

How did the Angels protect Lot and his family?

Which verses indicate that Lot was unable to influence the people of Sodom or his own sons-in-law?

Read Luke 17:28-33. What lesson and warning does Luke connect to Lot's wife?

Read through Genesis 19 again.

How did God answer Abraham's prayer from Genesis 18?

What does 2 Peter 2:7-9 tell us about Lot?

What insight do Romans 6:19-23 and 1 Corinthians 3:10-23 give into Lot's righteousness, sin and consequences?

Flee...or you will be swept away!

ATTEND

REFLECT

What is your main takeaway from this passage?

What challenged you or encouraged you?

What did you learn about the character of God?

How did this week's study affect your perspective on God, yourself, and/or your life?

ACT

Note **one specific thing** you can do this week to put into practice what you learned from this passage?

Note **one specific person** you can share something you learned with.

Name **one specific change** you will make in how you relate more deeply to God who **Judges sin**.

Who will you tell so they can support you as you act on God's word?



LAUGHTER

Gen 20-21

PREPARE

Abraham stood and saw the smoke of God's judgment over two prominent cities - we can only speculate what his thoughts and emotions might have been. Did he forget what God had said before all this destruction happened? Did he know Lot had been spared?

And then....laughter of disbelief becomes laughter of wonder. Abraham and Sarah have a moment in time of deep joy and satisfaction, worship and obedience. This moment is sandwiched in the middle of stories telling of fear, failure, sorrow, confusion, and politics. God keeps His promise, not because Abraham and Sarah have finally gotten their acts together and learned to fully trust and obey, but because He is God – the Promise Keeper.

Pray

asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's word.

Read Genesis 20-21

and answer the following questions.

After seeing the destruction of Sodom, where did Abraham go?

Who came to Abimelech and how did he respond?

What did Abraham assume about the place? Was he accurate in his assumption? (see 20:8, 11)

What pattern do you see in Abraham's life when he is afraid?

How was God's punishment a protection? (18:14 with 20:17-18)

Read through Genesis 20-21 again.

How is God described in 21:1?

Pause for a moment and ponder how by Grace alone God kept His promise to Abraham and Sarah. What have we learned from their lives and choices that helps us understand God's grace in a deeper way? What helps us understand what it means to live a life of faith?

How does God care for Hagar and Ishmael?

What do you find interesting about Abraham and Abimelech's relationship?

the LORD did for Sarah what He had promised.

ATTEND

REFLECT

What is your main takeaway from this passage?

What challenged you or encouraged you?

What did you learn about the character of God?

How did this week's study affect your perspective on God, yourself, and/or your life?

ACT

Note **one specific thing** you can do this week to put into practice what you learned from this passage?

Note **one specific person** you can share something you learned with.

Name **one specific change** you will make in how you relate more deeply to God the **Promise Keeper**.

Who will you tell so they can support you as you act on God's word?



TESTED

Gen 22

PREPARE

This text is difficult on many levels. Human sacrifice was a common practice among the pagan gods of the land, but Abraham had come to believe that God was different. Additionally God had said that the promised blessing and nation was with Isaac specifically. Abraham had already let Ishmael go – now he was to not just let Isaac go live somewhere else, but to actually end his life? The Creator and True God of the Universe *is* different. He abhors the practices of the surrounding nations in their false worship of their false gods. The promise *is* with Isaac. These things are true, so something else must be going on here. All of scripture points us to Jesus – let us read this chapter with that in mind.

Pray

asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's word.

Read Genesis 22

and answer the following questions.

Compare Genesis 12:1 with 22:2 and 12:4 with 22:31 and record your thoughts.

What specific place was Abraham told to go?

How long did it take Abraham to arrive there?

Read Genesis 22:12-18, Hebrews 11:17, John 1:29, John 3:16 and record your thoughts.

How has Abraham grown from fear of man to fear of God?
(see p.29, second question)

Read through Genesis 22 again.

In vs 14, what is said to this day?

Read 2 Chronicles 3:1, what else happened on Mount Moriah?

How has this passage led you into a deeper understanding of what it means that *the Lord will provide*? What has been provided in Jesus?

"When God asked Abraham for the ultimate demonstration of love and commitment, He asked for Abraham's son. When God the Father wanted to show us the ultimate demonstration of his love and commitment to us, He gave us His Son. We can say to the LORD, 'Now I know that You love me, seeing You have not withheld Your Son, Your only Son from me.' ... God didn't call off the sacrifice. Instead, He required that there be a substitute provided by God Himself." - [David Guzak](#)

now I know that you fear God

ATTEND

REFLECT

What is your main takeaway from this passage?

What challenged you or encouraged you?

What did you learn about the character of God?

How did this week's study affect your perspective on God, yourself, and/or your life?

ACT

Note **one specific thing** you can do this week to put into practice what you learned from this passage?

Note **one specific person** you can share something you learned with.

Name **one specific change** you will make in how you relate more deeply to God who **Provides**.

Who will you tell so they can support you as you act on God's word?



PROVISION

Gen 23-24

PREPARE

The promises to Abraham involved both land and descendants and went well beyond his own lifetime. As his time on this earth is nearing its end, these last recorded stories from his life reveal a practical side of faith. We read of decisions made and actions taken based on an understanding of God's character and promises rather than direct instruction from God's voice. God gives practical help and clear guidance through knowledge of His will and confirming circumstances. After years of camping out, Abraham makes a purchase and finally owns a piece of ground in the land God had promised to give him. Although he knew God had promised to give him the land, he pays a fair price for it. Isaac, no longer a child, will shift into focus as we continue to learn of God's plan and relationship with this particular family. Abraham shows great concern that Isaac's future be built upon faith in God.

Pray

asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's word.

Read Genesis 23-24
and answer the following questions.

What are Abraham's concerns in these chapters?

How does Abraham describe the Lord?

Why would Abraham not want Isaac to return to the country he came from?

What challenges did Abraham's servant face and who did he ask for help?

What does the servant seem to want Rebekah's family to understand?

Why were Laban and Bethuel so agreeable to the servant's request?

Read through Genesis 23-24 again.

Last week we learned of God's provision of sacrifice. This week, what things does God provide?

What insights into Rebekah's character are we given?

What insights into Isaac and Rebekah's relationship are we given?

Rebekah became his wife, and he loved her

ATTEND

REFLECT

From all the descriptions of God's character given in these chapters, what is the most meaningful to you?

What is your main takeaway from this passage?

What challenged you or encouraged you?

What did you learn about the character of God?

How did this week's study affect your perspective on God, yourself, and/or your life?

ACT

Note **one specific thing** you can do this week to put into practice what you learned from this passage?

Note **one specific person** you can share something you learned with.

Name **one specific change** you will make in how you relate more deeply to God who **Guides**.

Who will you tell so they can support you as you act on God's word?



COVENANT

Gen 25-26

PREPARE

God has promised a multitude of children through Abraham *and* Isaac and yet both Sarah and Rebekah struggled with infertility. Meanwhile Ishmael seems to have no trouble bearing children. Like his father before him, Isaac faces a famine and common sense says to leave the land of promise and head to Egypt. Crops, herds, wells, quarrels, clans, and kings are all a part of Isaac's story. Whatever we assume Abraham has passed on to Isaac about God's character and what a life of faithfulness looks like, Isaac's relationship with God must be his own. Is the Covenant God made still valid? How can Isaac know? Does God change his mind? Will He keep His promise to Abraham through Isaac or is it through one of these other sons? As you read these chapters pay attention to the ways God reveals that He will remain faithful to Isaac just as He was faithful to Abraham no matter how hard or messy things get.

Pray

asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's word.

Read Genesis 25-26
and answer the following questions.

What do you find interesting in the account of all of Abraham's children?

How old was Isaac when he and Rebekah married? How old was Isaac when his sons were born?

When Rebekah reached out to God, how did He respond and what did He tell her?

Where was Isaac and what struggles had he been having when God appeared to him?

Summarize God's promise in 26:3-4. How is this a continuation of the covenant God made with Abraham? What words of comfort does God give to Isaac?

What was Isaac's response?

How do the kings in the land show they have some knowledge of God and understanding of His ways?

Read through Genesis 25-26 again.

What signs of faithfulness do we see demonstrated by Isaac and Rebekah?

What indicators of sin, challenges, or trouble do we see with Isaac and Rebekah and their children?

do not be afraid for I am with you.

ATTEND

REFLECT

What is your main takeaway from this passage?

What challenged you or encouraged you?

What did you learn about the character of God?

How did this week's study affect your perspective on God, yourself, and/or your life?

ACT

Note **one specific thing** you can do this week to put into practice what you learned from this passage?

Note **one specific person** you can share something you learned with.

Name **one specific change** you will make in how you relate more deeply to God **With us**.

Who will you tell so they can support you as you act on God's word?



SUMMARY OF PART 2

Take a moment to reflect and note your main takeaways.

Which of God's attributes do you find most meaningful?

How many women did God personally speak to? What does this tell you about God's value of women?

How has Genesis 12-26 impacted the way you understand Hebrews 11:8-10? What would you like to incorporate into your life of faith as a result?

What additional insights are found in Romans 4, 10-11, and Galatians 3 about God's covenant with Abraham and what it means to be justified by faith alone through grace alone?

God knows what He is about. Beginning with Abraham, He is forming a group of people to know Him and to help the world understand how to honor, worship, and glorify Him as the Only True God. But it's all happening within the world as we know it among people who are sinful, weak, and limited. May our continued study into the life of Abraham's family deepen our understanding of what is meant when the scriptures describe God as "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

GOD'S ATTRIBUTES FROM PART 1

- Creator (Gen 1:1-2:3 CREATION)
- Gives Life (Gen 2:4-25 HUMANKIND)
- Pursues (Gen 3 FALLEN)
- Warns (Gen 4-5 HUMANITY)
- Rescues (Gen 6-8 FLOOD)
- Promise Keeper (Gen 9 COVENANT)
- Intervenes (Gen 10-11 BABEL)

GOD'S ATTRIBUTES FROM PART 2

- Calls (Gen 12 CALLED)
- Reassures (Gen 13-14 GOING)
- Shield & Great Reward (Gen 15 COVENANT)
- Sees (Gen 16-17 COMMITMENT)
- Draws Near (Gen 18 CONVERSATION)
- Judges Sin (Gen 19 CONSEQUENCES)
- Promise Keeper (Gen 20-21 LAUGHTER)
- Provides (Gen 22 TESTED)
- Guides (Gen 23-24 PROVISION)
- With Us (Gen 25-26 COVENANT)

I Am your shield, your very great reward.

