

JESUS IN GENESIS

SEASON 2

JESUS IN GENESIS - SEASON 2: GENESIS 14:1-24

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE - WEEK OF APRIL 25, 2021

Introduction:

- As people with access to all of scripture, after Christ has lived, died and ascended, we should consider ourselves blessed.
- When the unity and majesty of scripture is shown to us, we should realize that we're dealing with the living and true word of God, and receive it with reverence.
- With access to God's living word, we have a more direct word from God, through faith in Christ, as Abram did. This should increase the enthusiasm with which we read and believe His word, and apply it in our lives.
- Chapter 14 of Genesis chronicles a period when Abram has strong faith that God's promises will come true. We can look to his example to identify how we should act with courage in the faith.

1. Faith Leads to Action

- Chedorlaomer of Elam, as the most powerful king in the region, demanded tribute from the surrounding city-states. A coalition of 5 city-states including Sodom opt not to pay tribute to Chedorlaomer after doing so for 13 years. Chedorlaomer leads a coalition of 4 city-state kings to march in the direction of the 5 city-states (from the Canaan area) who are protesting. After a few victories on the way to Canaan, Chedorlaomer's coalition defeats the coalition of 5 kings and marches off with people and goods from Sodom. Abram's "kinsman" Lot is taken captive by Chedorlaomer in the process.
- Immediately after hearing the news of Lot's capture, Abram rallies 318 trained warriors from his household to try to rescue Lot. Ultimately, Abram soundly defeats the enemy, rescues Lot, and recovers a lot of captives and treasure (after tracking north ~200 miles)
- This section about Abram's life captures a time when Abram had strong faith in God's promises to him. He truly believed that God would curse those who dishonored him as God told him in Gen. 12:1-3, which led him to act decisively and achieve victory.
- It should be noted that though Chedorlaomer's power was growing in the region of Canaan, Abram did not challenge this force until Lot, his nephew/"kinsmen"/brother was captured. We can learn from Abram's wisdom.
- Prov 26:17 warns against meddling in quarrels that are not our own.
- We can learn from Abram's wisdom, and Christ's main commands to love God and love our neighbor when we decide how to apply our faith in life (also see Eph. 4:11-16, John 13:34-35, James 5:19-20).
- Some will be called to great callings and battles for the Lord, but most Christians are called to simply apply the Lord's basic commands to engage the Him daily and love our closest neighbors daily. Such action will lead to plenty of opportunities for service, encouragement, learning, and evangelism.

2. Action Leads to Refreshment

- Our faith should lead to action as we show thankfulness to God for our salvation and follow His commands, but also because such action is the means for our spiritual joy and refreshment.
- As Melchizedek went out to meet Abram after his righteous quest, Christ will meet us and give us the refreshment that we need.
- Christians should be careful not to seek "old crutches," leisure or escape when tired or discouraged. They shouldn't pursue "self care" like the rest of the Lord. They should trust that Christ, in the form of the Holy Spirit, will meet them in times of need.
- The care that Christ provides will address their weariness, as well as also provide correction as needed.

3. Refreshment Leads to Faith

- Our faith shall be strengthened from Christ's refreshment and prepare us for future service to the Lord and challenges from the enemy.
- Abram's denial of the King of Sodom's offer was perhaps a greater act of faith than his conquest of Chedorlaomer.
- We, like, Abram should trust God to fulfill His word, even when our circumstances do not suggest that it's fulfillment is near and when others nudge us to challenge it.
- We shall learn from the faith of Abram, but, more so, that of Christ, who took on flesh and experienced God's rejection for us on the cross while knowing the eternal splendor of the Trinity.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To think about how we can most effectively apply our faith in God in life.

Heart

To trust God to meet us, care for us and correct us while we take up righteous tasks.

Hands

To more intentionally care for the family members, church and biological, and neighbors closest to us while we put our faith into action.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will hold **9:30** and **11:30 services** this coming Sunday, May 2.

Please go to <https://brookline.mosaicboston.com/serve> to **sign up for a service team**.

The next **Members' Meeting** will held THIS Sunday, **May 2 at 3PM** in the Temple sanctuary.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Genesis 14

1. Can someone take a moment to summarize the events that are chronicled in Genesis 14?
2. What are some notable ways that Abram applied his faith in this chapter?
3. **Read Proverbs 26:17**. How can you apply this in your life?
4. Did the sermon help you identify ways that you can more efficiently or effectively apply your faith in daily life? Explain.
5. Did the sermon help you identify ways that you can better serve you neighbors and/or family (both church and biological)?
6. How can individual members of a church continually serving and encouraging one another lead to a healthier church body? How can it lead to greater levels of evangelism? See Eph. 4:11-16 for help.
7. What kind of refreshment can Christians expect to receive from Christ when they are actively serving Him?
8. How would you describe to someone else the difference results that you've experienced leaning into Christ in a challenging moment versus falling back on an old form of comfort?
9. Have you ever given up great treasures, power or opportunity to follow Christ? How do you feel about your decision today?