

Cultivate Genesis Study

Chapter 15

Read and meditate on Genesis Chapter 15 this week
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class.

Genesis Chapter 15 is rich with promises for Abram, from the Lord.

Genesis 15:1 says, *"After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, 'Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.'"*

1. Considering his recent events, why might Abram be fearful?

In the ancient Near East revenge and retaliation were general practice. People did not 'forgive and forget'. Abram had to exercise great faith believing that God would protect him from the very real potential for vengeance from Chedorlaomer and the other defeated kings in rescuing Lot.

2. Previously, you searched two verses on sinful fear, now do a search of verses that command us to "Fear not", or "Do not be afraid". How many can you find? Spoiler alert, there are Many! Write out a favorite.

It is important, especially today, that we do not fall into the sin of being fearful. If you struggle with fear, worry, or anxiety, keep these verses written down. Memorize ones that the Spirit can bring to mind, when those thoughts creep up.

With all the ups and downs of life, this is the Truth we can hold on to! God is our shield and our exceedingly great reward! Abram just encountered a mountain top experience, from a human standpoint, in the victory over Chedorlaomer. Immediately following that, Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of the God Most High, blessed and honored him. But God tells him, "I am your exceedingly great reward."

3. What types of “things” tempt us to take our eyes off our true Reward and place them on temporal, inferior things?

Read Genesis 15:2-5

In vs 2-3 Abram is coming to God seeking what God has promised...the offspring *“in whom all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”* Genesis 12:3

Abram was not complaining of God’s forgetfulness; but he brings his concerns to God of his lack of an heir. As we seek God in prayer may we not complain of His timing and His will but look to Him and wait on Him as He is working on our behalf.

Prayerfully Read Psalm 27:13-14

God confirms His promise to Abram that a child from his own body would be born. Abram’s sorrow was that he was barren, but God says his descendants shall be as the multitude of the stars. Isn’t that just like the enemy, and our flesh, to see impossibilities? And isn’t it just like God to say look what I have for you? Nothing is too hard for God! Read Genesis 18:14

4. Look up these scriptures and right down your observations and thoughts.

Matthew 8:13, Matthew 9:22, Matthew 9:29, Mark 11:23, John 14:13, Hebrews 11:6

In Genesis 15:6 it is recorded that Abram’s belief in God’s promise was the evidence of his righteousness. One can say they are righteous (to be in right standing with God); but without evidence, it lacks proof. Abram’s response proved that he believed God could and would bring life from that which seemed dead. Read Hebrews 11:12

5. What are some things that people (even Christians) wrongly trust in to make them feel “righteous”?

When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.

We can give thanks to God that He does not have a merit system.

How freeing to know that it is trusting in Him alone that brings us to a place of acceptance before Him! The good works that He has called us to will come *after* we are found in righteousness and He empowers us to walk accordingly. It is all His work being done through us as we lay down our lives for His purposes.

6. Write out Ephesians 2:10

We are in unprecedented times and the evil in the world is increasing everywhere. Sometimes our faith can be weak and sadly we might start to doubt God’s providence. Scripture vividly guides us to human beings, just like us, who didn’t always exhibit the faith that we should have. Abram sinned when he decided to travel to Egypt and lie about Sari being his sister. BUT how wonderfully he trusted when the Lord promised him that his offspring would be immeasurable! With God all things are possible! Genesis 15:6 reminds us of the excellence of trust and belief in the Lord’s promises.

7. Write out Genesis 15:6 and place your name where ‘he’ and ‘him’ are.

Sit back, take a deep breath and praise the Creator of the universe who has your life in His hands.