

TEXT: Genesis 12-15

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Encourage your group to attend the 5:00pm service together starting February 25.
-

Big Idea: Jesus keeps His promises

Genesis 12:1-3

At this point in his life, Abram is a pagan, from a pagan family, living in a pagan land. God did not go find Abram worshipping him on the hillside. He found Abram living in a pagan land, from a pagan family, engaging in paganism.

- How does God's call on Abram's life encourage us in the hope of the Gospel for our lives?

Genesis 12:7; Romans 12:1-2

Why did Abraham build an altar? **Because when God shows up, you worship. When God speaks, you respond. Abraham built an altar for three reasons: 1) to worship, 2) to respond, and 3) to remember.**

- What does it look like to worship and respond when God speaks today?

Genesis 12:7, 10-13

Abraham allowed his fear to drive his actions by going down to Egypt during the famine and convincing Sarah to lie about being his wife and say she was his sister. He goes from obeying and worshipping God to suddenly trusting in himself when presented with possible difficulties.

- How does living in fear rob you of the joy of glorifying God?

Genesis 13:1

Abraham went to Egypt in **rebellion, in sin, in his unfaithfulness**. Now he leaves Egypt and he goes back to an altar. He went *down* to Egypt and he goes *up* from Egypt. This is repentance, he changes course, turns around, and repents!

- What draws us to repentance of our sins?

- *“Repentance means turning from as much as you know of your sin to give as much as you know of yourself to as much as you know of your God...” - JI Packer*

Genesis 15:1-6

Abraham’s pain of not having his own offspring causes him to doubt and question God. God doesn’t respond in anger but in kindness. It is in our pain that God makes us promises meant to give us hope as we walk a journey of pain.

- How have you experienced the tension of doubt and trusting God in your life?

Genesis 15:7-8, 12-14, 18-21

Abraham goes back and forth with believing God and then doubting God. **God does not require perfect faith, He just calls us to genuine faith.**

- What are we reminded of by God’s covenant with Abraham?

Genesis 16:1-16

Abraham and Sarah took advantage of Hagar in their disobedience to God. Yet God saw Hagar and provided for her in the pain and mistreatment.

- How have you experienced sin that affects other people?
- How can you see God’s love and provision even in the pain of that circumstance?

Overview

- How did Abram first respond to the covenant God made with him?
- What did God do to show His power and plan to keep His covenant with Abram? What is significant about this?
- How does this point us to the Gospel and Jesus as the promised Son?