



# THE BOOK OF GENESIS

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## IN THE BEGINNING...

Bible study for the week starting November 12, 2023

### SHARE

We heard last week when God chose Abraham, he had no land, his wife was barren, and he came from a family of idol worshippers. Why might God choose a person like that for such an important mission?

### READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

1. Read/review **Genesis 17:1-18:15**, as God renews His promise of a child that he had made 24 years earlier. We often focus on Abraham's family growing into the nation (singular) of Israel, but the emphasis and even his new name (Abraham) means "father of nations" (plural). What's the true emphasis and fulfillment of the promise?
2. Read **Genesis 18:16-33**. Think about the lessons Abraham has learned about God's character over the past 24 years of knowing Him. Now, he gets a case study in the mercy of God. What things does He learn about God in this interaction?
3. Read **Hebrews 11:8-12**. We call this the "heroes of the faith" chapter, but it never uses the word "heroes." Is that word an accurate description for Abraham and the others in that chapter? Or is the point that this kind of faith is attainable for all of us, not just the heroic?
4. Read **Hebrews 12:1-3**. This is the "therefore" that comes after the heroes of the faith chapter. How is this example set by others (including Abraham) supposed to translate to our own faith and faithfulness?
5. Read **Matthew 3:4-12**. John the Baptist tells it like it is when those descendants of Abraham appeal to their lineage as a basis of righteousness, in essence saying, "That and \$4 will get you a cup of black coffee at Starbucks." What clarity does that give as to the fact that it has *always* been faith that saves, no matter who you are or where you're from?
6. God "takes no delight in the death of the wicked" (**Ezekiel 33:11**), but that they would turn and live. Do we look at our surroundings and share that heart? Abraham did. In what areas could we stand to improve in this regard?

### PRAY

Pray for your enemies and those who would persecute you; it'll change your life!



**Right Arm, Left Arm, Nod Your Head  
(Father Abraham)**

**Genesis 18:16-33**

**November 12, 2023 – Pastor Eric Van Scharrel**

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“I am one of them, and so are YOU.”

Abram = exalted father    Abraham = father of

NATIONS

“And he believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as  
RIGHTEOUSNESS.” -Genesis 15:6

“By faith Abraham OBEYED...by faith he WENT...”

-Hebrews 11:8-12

Case study: Sodom and Gomorrah

God’s cast of CHARACTERS.

Abraham is your FATHER in faith, and Jesus is the  
AUTHOR and PERFECTER of your faith.

*For next week, read Genesis 22.*