

Genesis 15

Life Group Bible Study

God is our shield and is present even in life's uncertainty. Genesis 15 shows us where to stand when the promise of God and the life we are living seem far apart.

Some reading assignments. Before you begin reading Genesis 15 aloud give everyone a responsibility. Ask some to notice what Abram does, others to notice what God says, and another group notice what God does.

Questions

1. What is something you were sure you would never do when you got older—but now catch yourself doing? What changed?

2. Review Genesis 15:1–6. What is the gap between what God has promised Abram and what Abram can presently see? How does God respond to Abram's honest questions?

3. God begins with "I am your shield" and "I am your reward" before explaining the future. Why might who God is matter more than knowing every detail of what God will do? Where do you need that reminder today?

4. Verse 6 says Abram believed the Lord, and righteousness was "counted" to him. What is the difference between receiving righteousness as a gift and trying to establish it through your own record? (Someone could read Romans 4:1-15 for additional insight.)

5. **Next Section: Review Genesis 15:7–18.** In the covenant ceremony pictured here, walking between the divided pieces enacted a self-cursing oath: may I become like these if I break my word.
6. What does the ceremony reveal about the seriousness of a promise? Why would a covenant resting on Abram's faithfulness—or ours—already be in danger? (Reference Jeremiah 34:18)
7. What type of ceremonies do we have four covenants? What happens when they are broke?
8. At the decisive moment, a deep sleep and dreadful darkness fall on Abram. What do Abram's passivity and the promised four-hundred-year delay teach us about control, waiting, and the hidden work of God?
9. Only the smoking fire pot and flaming torch pass between the pieces. What is God pledging by walking the path alone? How does this change where the covenant's security rests?
10. Have someone Turn to Galatians 3:13–14 and someone else turn to Hebrews 6:13–20. How does the cross fulfill the covenant pattern of Genesis 15? What do these passages say God has done with the curse and the blessing?

11. The sermon described us as holding life together with a “white-knuckled” grip. What are you clutching most tightly? If your security is already settled in Christ, what faithful response—not anxious self-rescue—might God be inviting from you this week?

12. Pray Together as a Group.