

# THE BIG STORY

GOD'S STORY. OUR STORY.

A 16-WEEK JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE



*One Word. One Week. One Story.*



FROM BEGINNING TO RESTORATION,  
GOD REDEEMS ALL THINGS IN CHRIST.

# God's Story - *Covenant*

September 9: Week 3 – **Covenant**

Text: Genesis 12, 15, 17

Goal: See God's plan to bless the world through Abraham.

Key Insight: God's promises are foundational to His redemptive plan.

Jesus Connection: Jesus fulfills the promise to bless all nations. How does Jesus' mention of the "New Covenant" at the Last Supper inform our faith?

Discussion Questions:

- Why did God choose Abraham?
- What does faith look like in Abraham's story?
- How are we part of this promise today?

Application: Trust God's promises even when circumstances seem uncertain.

# God's Story - *Promise*

What does it mean to make a promise?

“to pledge to do, bring about, or provide” - Merriam-Webster

# God's Story - *Covenant*

What is a covenant?

“An historical relationship between persons.” In Scripture, “God enters into relationship with his people,” which is to say that “God works in history.” (*Far as the Curse is Found*, Michael Williams, p. xii)

- Stronger and weaker party
- Promises
- Terms

## *First Statement of the Gospel Promise*

Genesis 3:15

“I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel.”

## Genesis 12:1-4

### *The Call of Abram*

<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

## Genesis 15:1-6

### *God's Covenant with Abram*

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” <sup>4</sup> And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” <sup>5</sup> And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

## Genesis 15:12-18

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. <sup>14</sup> But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. <sup>15</sup> As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. <sup>16</sup> And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land...”

## Genesis 17:1-7

### *Abraham and the Covenant of Circumcision*

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, <sup>2</sup> that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” <sup>3</sup> Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, <sup>4</sup> “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make <sup>t</sup>you into nations, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup> And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you....”

## Genesis 17:9-13

<sup>9</sup> And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. <sup>10</sup> This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. <sup>11</sup> You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. <sup>12</sup> He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, <sup>13</sup> both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant.

## Jeremiah 31:31-34

### *The New Covenant*

<sup>31</sup> “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup> not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. <sup>33</sup> For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

## *Institution of the Lord's Supper*

<sup>14</sup> And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him.<sup>15</sup>

And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." <sup>17</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. <sup>18</sup> <sup>i</sup>For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." <sup>19</sup> And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, <sup>k</sup>"This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>20</sup> And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

## Galatian 3:16

<sup>16</sup> Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ.

## Galatian 3:13-14

<sup>13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— <sup>14</sup> so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

## Galatian 3:7-9

<sup>7</sup> Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.”  
<sup>9</sup> So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

# Our Story - *Response*

If God works through covenant promises -

- 1) Our status as in Christ is assured because we are “in him” by adoption.
- 2) We can trust God with/in our circumstances that God is about the business of working rescue/redeeming that nations.
- 3) We are called partakers of the promise, so we can walk in faith to bless the nations (word and deed)

# God's Story - *Signs & Seals*

**Covenant with Adam** || Sign | Seal - The Two Trees & Sabbath

**Covenant with Noah** || Sign - The Bow in the Clouds | Seal - permanence of the natural order and seasons (Gen 8:22)

**Covenant with Abraham** || Sign / Seal - Circumcision

**Covenant with Moses** (Sinai) || Sign - Sabbath and Passover | Seal - Blood of the Covenant & Sabbath (Ex 24/31)

**Covenant with David** || Sign - Sun & Moon (Psalm 89:36-37) | Seal - Royal Throne of David

**New Covenant** || Sign - Baptism and the Lord's Supper | Seal - The Holy Spirit