



Connect Discussion Guide

3.14.21 Message | Chuck Sackett | Genesis 12

God will do whatever it takes to protect his covenant.

Key Scriptures:

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. 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. 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."

- Genesis 12:1-3

For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.

- Hebrews 6:13-15

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

- Psalm 36:5

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, 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. 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. 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.

- Jeremiah 31:31-34

And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

- Luke 22:19-20

Message Highlights:

- When God makes a covenant promise, he will indeed keep it, no matter what it takes.
- God made a promise to Abraham and he kept it.
- We see God's covenant with Abraham reiterated throughout Scripture.
- The Old Testament prophets called Israel to faithfully keep their part their covenant with God.
- God promised a new covenant that would supersede the one which we could not keep, even though it would cost him everything.
- God did what was necessary to fulfill his covenant promise through Jesus.

Conversation Starter:

- For the past few weeks, we have taken time to sit in the weight of the consequences of sin, yet this week we celebrate another truth: God still pursues us! Take a few minutes to share with your group how God has pursued you recently.

Discuss the Message:

1. This week, Chuck explained the role of covenant relationships in the Bible. Are you a part of a covenant relationship/agreement? What differences do you see between covenant relationships today versus in biblical times?
2. For what reason does God say he will bless Abram in Genesis 12:1? In what ways have you been given the opportunity to bless others out of your abundance in the past week?
3. Discuss the meaning of a covenant based on your understanding of God's covenant with Abraham. What is the difference between a covenant and a contract? Taking an honest look, which elements of a covenant agreement are appealing and which elements are challenging to you?
4. God promises Abram he will give the land of Canaan to his offspring in Genesis 12:7; put yourself in Abram's shoes. How would you react to a good promise, but one that won't come to fruition for decades? What can we learn from Abram as we strive to practice patience in the expectation of God's promises?
5. God will do whatever it takes to protect the covenants he makes with his people; how does this ring true considering both last week's scripture (the Tower of Babel) and this week's scripture (God's covenant with Abram)?
6. Read Luke 22:19–20. What did it cost Jesus to fulfill God's covenant promise to us? Have you responded to God's promise by entering into a covenant relationship with Christ? If so, how can we live more faithfully to the covenant we have with Him?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, from ages and generations past you have always kept every promise you have ever made. We praise you for your faithfulness! You love and pursue your people fiercely, and you stop at nothing to protect and provide for the promises you make! Through your Son, Jesus, you have blessed us beyond all that we could ask or imagine. We want to be a blessing to others out of the abundance of your great love for us. Help us, by the power of your Holy Spirit, to remain faithful to the covenant we have made with you through Christ. Amen.