

Bible Stories for Adults

God Makes a Covenant with Abram

Genesis 12 - 22

Opening

Gathering: What faith lessons have you learned from your parents and/or passed on to your children?

Today's Focus: We are heirs by faith of the great promises that God made to Abraham and guaranteed through Jesus.

Key Verses: *Abram believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness.* Genesis 15:6

If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.
Galatians 3:29

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Father of the Jews? (*Galatians 3*)

Who did the Jews consider as their father?

Joshua 24:3

What, if any, relationship do Christians have with Abraham?

Galatians 3:6-7

Why is it important that we are officially considered to be children of Abraham?

Galatians 3:26-29

What does it mean to be heirs of Abraham's promise?

Galatians 3:10-14

Abram's Family Tree (*Genesis 11:27-32*)

Who were the members of Abram's family?

Genesis 11:27-29

How was Abram related to Sarai other than marriage?

Genesis 20:12

Did this family stay in Ur of the Chaldeans?

Genesis 11:31-32

Ur

Haran

The Call (*Genesis 12:1-3*)

Did God want this family to stay in Haran?

Genesis 12:1

What did God promise Abram in response for his obedience?

Genesis 12:2-3

How are all nations blessed through Abram?

Matthew 1:1, 17

Galatians 3:8-9

Was Abram selected because he was righteous or devout?

Joshua 24:2

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Abram's Response (*Genesis 12:4-6*)

What was Abram's response to God's call?

Genesis 12:4

How was he able to leave everything he knew at such an old age?

Hebrews 11:8-10

What questions, explanations and details did Abram ask of God?

Genesis 12:5-6

Why is it so important that we obey God's commands?

John 14:23

Another Promise (*Genesis 12:7-8*)

What new promise did God give after Abram obeyed His first command?

Genesis 12:7a

Why was *offspring* a significant part of God's promise?

Genesis 11:30

How could someone so old become a father?

Hebrews 11:11-12

Was it any easier for Abraham to have this faith than for us?

Romans 4:18-24

Was God giving this land to Abram at this time?

Acts 7:5 (*Hebrews 11:13-16*)

How did Abram show his faithfulness to God?

Genesis 12:7b-8

Promises to Abraham (*Genesis 12-25*)

What promises did God make to Abram when He called him?

Genesis 12:2-3

What was Abraham's responsibility under this agreement?

Genesis 12:1

What did God promise after Abram let Lot choose his land?

Genesis 13:14-16

What did God promise Abram after he rescued Lot and gave a tithe? (*Gen 14*)

Genesis 15:1

Genesis 15:13-14

Genesis 15:15-16

Genesis 15:18

What promise did God make the year before Isaac was born, when Abram was 99 years old?

Genesis 17:6-8

What promise did God make to Abraham after he obeyed the command to sacrifice Isaac?

Genesis 22:16-18

What did Abraham have to do in order to receive these promises?

Genesis 15:6

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Blood Covenant

- Absolute and Unbreakable guarantee of a man's word; Bound two parties together as one
 - Very serious and solemn - Reserved for only special and critical agreements
- Three large animals split down the spine
 - Halves placed on the ground opposite each other
 - Trail of blood between the halves was called *the Way of Blood*
 - May this happen to me if I break this covenant*
- Parties exchanged coats - exchange of authority, *What I have is yours*
 - Exchanged weapons - *My strength is yours, Your enemies are mine*
 - Walked twice through *the Way of Blood*
 - Met each other in the center
 - Stated pledges of agreement - *the Blessing of the Covenant*
 - Curse for breaking the covenant was pronounced
 - Parties swore by their god, making him a third party
 - Cut hands and wrists - *the Cut of the Covenant*
 - Bound wrists together to intermingle the blood
 - Joined names together
- Ate a covenant meal of bread and wine together (Bread for flesh, wine for blood)
 - Represented willingness to lay down lives for each other

God's Covenant with Abram (Genesis 15)

- How did God guarantee his covenant with Abram?
 - Genesis 15:8-11
- Did both Abram and God walk through *the Way of Blood*?
 - Genesis 15:12, 17
- What was significant about the *smoking firepot* and *flaming torch*?
 - Exodus 13:21 (Exodus 3:2; 19:18; Acts 2:3)
- How did God guarantee His covenant with us?
 - Hebrews 7:22
- How did Jesus act as *the Way of Blood*?
 - Hebrews 9:12

God Confirms His Covenant (Genesis 17:1-8)

- What did God do around 15 years later to remind Abram of His covenant?
 - Genesis 17:1-2
- Why did God change Abram's name to Abraham?
 - Genesis 17:3-5
 - Abram / Abraham*
- What was Abraham's responsibility under this covenant?
 - Genesis 17:9-10, 14
- How long did it take Abraham to complete what God commanded?
 - Genesis 17:23

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Justified by Circumcision? (*Romans 4*)

- Was Abraham justified (deemed righteous) and blessed because of his circumcision?
Romans 4:9-11a
- Are God's promises to Abraham's descendants only to the Jews (circumcised)?
Romans 4:11b-12
- How did Abraham receive the promise? By obeying the law?
Romans 4:13-15
- How can we be heirs to the promises God made to Abraham?
Romans 4:16-18
- How can righteousness be credited to us?
Romans 4:22-25

God's Covenant Through Sarah (*Genesis 17:15-16*)

- Why did God change Sarai's name to Sarah?
Genesis 17:15-16
Sarai / Sarah
- How did this differ from Abraham's understanding of God's plan?
Genesis 17:17-18

- Why did God wait until Abraham and Sarah were old before bringing Isaac?
Genesis 17:19
- How had God introduced Himself to Abram, and why?
Genesis 17:1
Jeremiah 32:27
- What is the significance of circumcision having been instituted before Isaac?
Colossians 2:11-12

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. Do I live in the faith and righteousness of my faith-forefather Abraham?
(*Genesis 15:6; John 8:31-42; Romans 4:13-25; Galatians 3:6-9; Hebrews 11:8-19; James 2:20-24*)
2. Am I building a legacy of faith for those who will follow me?
(*Genesis 12:1-5; Deut. 6:4-9; Joshua 24:2-3; Matthew 23:1-13; Romans 4:1-3; 1 Cor. 4:14-16*)
3. Have I listened and heard God's call to me?
(*Genesis 12:1-3; 1 Samuel 3; Matthew 13:11-16; Acts 2:38-39; Romans 1:5-7*)
4. How have I responded to the call God has given to me?
(*Genesis 12:4; Exodus 3:1-4:18; Isaiah 6:8; Luke 10:1-4; Romans 11:29; Ephesians 4:1-13*)
5. What promises of God have I seen fulfilled?
(*Genesis 8:22; 15:5-6; Psalm 145:13; Romans 4:16; 2 Cor. 1:20; Hebrews 11:13-16; 2 Peter 3:8-9*)