

# 40 DAYS OF DISCOVERY

## SESSION 1 | DISCOVERING FAITH IN WAITING

### GENESIS 15 - ABRAM

#### INTRODUCTION

Have you ever had to wait on God for a desired outcome? If you haven't, as the older saints say: "Baby, Keep on Livin'." It's also been said that the meantime can be a mean time. A season of waiting can be dark as well, with the promises of God seemingly so far away or obscure that we begin to wonder:

- Is God still there?
- Did He really promise what He's promised?
- How will I know His promise will come about?
- Has He forgotten me? Or shall I take matters into my own hands?

Faith is defined as "complete trust or confidence in someone or something." The Bible describes faith as *"the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."* (Heb 11:1 ESV) Hebrews 11:6 qualifies faith, saying that *"without faith it is impossible to please him [God], for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him."* Throughout the Bible, faith is almost always measured against the life of Abraham. In this session, we encounter the "Father of the Faithful" at one of the most key points of his life, in order to find the treasure of faith in the midst of the (in this case, literal) darkness.

Lesson Scripture: Genesis 15

Background: Genesis 12-14

Key Verse: Genesis 15:6

Supporting Scriptures:  
Romans 4:3-6,16, Hebrews 11:1,6

#### LET'S DISCOVER!

Trust God to \_\_\_\_\_ what He's promised. (v.1)

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>1</sup> v.1

God will never provide anything for us, nor take us anywhere, that does not require faith: He wants to know that our trust is in Him. We can trust God to confirm what He has already revealed.

It's okay to ask God for \_\_\_\_\_ when asking in faith. (v.2-3,8)

*Trust in God's timing. It's better to wait a while and have things fall into place, than to rush and have things fall apart.*

— Adam Cappa

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?" And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." Genesis 15:2-3

But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" Genesis 15:8

It is one thing to look at the darkness of our current circumstances and allow them to cloud our faith. It is another thing entirely to believe the promises of God in faith and inquire how He intends to address the current circumstances.

**Remember what God has \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Him. (v.6)**

*"And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness." v.6*

To believe God in faith is equivalent to righteousness in His eyes.

**While you wait, God will graciously meet you \_\_\_\_\_ . (vv.10-11)**

*"When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."*  
Genesis 15:17-21

God made a covenant with Abram: An unconditional promise that he could understand.



## QUESTIONS FOR EXPLORATION

1. For what specific breakthrough(s) are you waiting on God the most in this season?

2. What circumstances are currently in the way of this breakthrough?

3. While waiting on His promise, is it wrong to question God? \_\_\_\_\_

• Why? Or Why not? \_\_\_\_\_

• What might God's response to Abram suggest? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What promises has God fulfilled before? How did you find encouragement while waiting?

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5. How has God reassured you that His promises are true?

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**BONUS:** Part of the reason for God's waiting was his impending justice on the Amorites (v.16). Would you be willing to wait for what you desired so that God's justice could be served? What does this scripture suggest about God's justice?

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## APPLICATION

- Take a moment to write down a particular breakthrough that you've been waiting on God to deliver. Which obstacles currently seem to be in the way? Make a list of questions for God regarding your obstacles and offer them to Him in prayerful trust.

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- Read Genesis 12-15 and note Abram's actions of obedience. Take prayerful inventory of your actions: Are they in sync with your beliefs?

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- At the end of each day this week, reflect on your day and look for the presence of God.

Answers: confirm (v.1), a sign (v.2-3,8), promised, believe (v.6), where you are (v.10-11)

<sup>1</sup>The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Genesis 15:1.

