

SERIES: *The Story Begins (Gospel Project)*
SERMON 3: "God's Covenant with Abraham"
TEXT: Genesis 12:1-4, 15:1-6, 15:7-21
DATE: October 22/23, 2016

God's Covenant is Conditionally - Unconditional

1. God Makes a **PROMISE**

Promised **LAND**

- Leaving his **PAST** behind
- Setting him **APART** to do something new

Promised **OFFSPRING**

- God will make his **NAME**
- God will give him **DESCENDANTS**

Promised **BLESSING**

- God is going to seek and **REUNITE** all people
- Abraham's descendants will be **BLESSED** to be a **BLESSING**

2. Abraham **DOUBTS**

- God **COMMANDS** us to trust his **PROMISES**
- Abraham **STRUGGLES** in the midst of the promise

3. God Makes Good On His **PROMISE**

- God takes the covenant **CURSES** upon himself

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. God's initiation of relationship with Abram required Abram's obedience to the call. Why do you think Abram obeyed God by leaving his land?

God's message is very moving to Abraham. God's draws

Abraham into his work as the hope of the entire world, and the future of God's creation. God's command is both personal to Abraham's life, and missional as a part of God's plan.

3. Read Genesis 12:1-4. Why is "I will" such a powerful phrase in this passage?
God previously commands Adam and Noah to be fruitful and multiply, however, his words to Abraham shift to the use of "I will" signifying God's renewed commitment and role in carrying his people forward.
4. What seems to be Abraham's biggest struggle in responding to God's promises?
Abraham receives the promises, but acts on his own in an attempt to bring them to be in his own timing and method.
5. How can these promises be a source of hope and faith for us?
They are a source of hope and faith in that God is intervening to renew and redeem his creation in a new and unconditional way. God is going to take the responsibility to insure our connection to him and each other.
6. Read Genesis 15:7-21. What is significant about the Covenant Ceremony?
God as represented by the smoking pot, and flaming torch, is the only one who passes through the animal sacrifice, symbolically taking responsibility for both sides of the covenant agreement.
7. How is God's Covenant conditionally unconditional?
**The condition is that Abraham must be blameless, yet he is not.
The covenant is unconditional in that a descendant of his (Jesus) is blameless, and will bear the consequences of our human shortcoming.**

Family Discussion Questions:

1. What is so important about God's promise?
2. How does God's promise help us to trust him?
3. How should our family respond to God's promise?

8. As you examine your belief and interaction with God, do you find it to be rules based, or relationship based?
9. Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus is the promised descendant of Abraham through whom salvation flows to the world.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What did God promise?