

## WEEK 4: NEXT LEVEL RELATIONSHIP

In this chapter of Genesis, we find God leveling Abram up. It was at this time when God made an actual covenant with Abram, leveling their relationship.

### SCRIPTURE Genesis 15 and James 2:21-23

#### OBSERVATION

- What in Abram's immediate past might cause him to experience fear and feel the need for protection and for some kind of reward or recompense? How did God answer this fear?
- Where would you say the problems Abram expressed to God came from? Evil unbelief? Confusion? Genuine faith but with uncertainty? Emotionally down after a hard battle? Other? Why? Share a recent time when you verbalized your fears and questions directly for the ears of Jesus.
- Abram enters into a new level relationship with God. What is a covenant?
- God sealed His covenant in a formal blood contract v17-18. Normally both parties of a contract agree to their part of the conditions and both pass through the middle of the slaughtered animals. What does it mean in this case that God alone passes through the pieces while Abram was actually asleep? How is this comparable to our salvation? Read Ephesians 2:4-10.
- What new information did Abram receive in this chapter of his life about God's promise of Land, Descendants and Blessing? How would this revelation clarify and challenge Abram's faith? How did it affect Joseph's faith hundreds of years later? (Gen 50:24-25, Heb 11:22) Did either of these men live to see it? What promises do you deeply believe even though you might not see it in this life?
- This covenant became the pivotal point in the life of Abram when he became a friend of God. How about us, at what point in our relationship with God did we become "friends of God"? Read John 15:14-16.
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#### APPLICATION

- It says that Abram believed God and He credited it to him as righteousness v 6. How does crediting righteousness to us differ from God recognizing that we are righteous in ourselves? Read and discuss Rom 4:4-6. How can God the righteous judge justify (declare righteous) the wicked, i.e. thief on the cross? What gives you deep joy and security in your relationship with God?
- The Bible says in Galatians 3:26-29, that we become part of Abraham's covenant with God when accept Jesus. What promises of God do we now have as a result of being in covenant with God?
- What are your roles and responsibilities in your relationship with God?
- How would you help a not yet Christian see that a relationship with God is not based on our performance but given by God's grace and received through faith?

#### PRAYER



#### GENESIS 15

12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. 13 Then the Lord said to him, "Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. 15 You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. 16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure." 17 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— 19 the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, 20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, 21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites."

#### JAMES 2:21-23

21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.