

A Promise is Given

*FCC Life Group Discussion Notes
Based on the "Genesis" Series of Matthew Rogers
Matthew Rogers Preaching
06-07-26*

Opening Prayer

- Pray that God would strengthen our faith to believe His promises even when circumstances seem impossible, just as Abram did.
- Ask the Lord to help us trust in Jesus alone for our righteousness and salvation.

Ice Breaker

If God promised you something that seemed completely impossible right now (like becoming a parent at 83 with no children), what would your first honest question to Him be?

Key Scripture

Genesis 15:6 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Sermon Summary

In Genesis 15, God reaffirms His promises to Abram of numerous descendants and the land of Canaan, even as Abram voices honest doubts about his childlessness and the occupied land. When Abram believes God's word, the Lord credits it to him as righteousness—a foundational picture of the Gospel. Through a dramatic covenant ceremony, God alone walks between the animal pieces, taking the curse of a broken promise upon Himself, pointing forward to Jesus who would absorb that curse on the cross so we could be made right with God through faith.

Discussion Point 1: Honest Doubts and God's Patience

Scripture: Genesis 15:2-3 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

But Abram said, "Lord God, what can you give me, since I am childless and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" Abram continued, "Look, you have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house will be my heir."

Point Summary:

Abram was 83 years old and still childless, yet God kept promising him countless offspring. Instead of rebuking him, God patiently listened to Abram's very real doubts and responded with reassurance. This reminds us that God welcomes our honest questions and meets us in our confusion.

Suggested points for prayer is given in each prayer section and are up to the discretion of the leader.

Discussion Questions:

1. What promises in God's Word do you sometimes struggle to believe because of your current circumstances?
2. How does Abram's honest conversation with God encourage you to bring your doubts to the Lord rather than hiding them?

Discussion Point 2: Faith Credited as Righteousness

Scripture: Genesis 15:6 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Point Summary:

In a powerful moment, Abram chose to believe God despite the odds. God declared him righteous not because of perfect behavior but because of simple faith. This is the heart of the Gospel—God makes us right with Him through trust in Jesus, not our own efforts.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it look like in everyday life to “believe God” the way Abram did?
2. Share a time when choosing to trust God (even when it didn't make sense) brought peace or change to your life.

Discussion Point 3: God Takes the Curse

Scripture: Genesis 15:17 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud*

When the sun had set and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch appeared and passed between the divided animals.

Point Summary:

In the covenant ceremony, God passed through the animal pieces alone—symbolizing that He would take the full penalty if the promises were broken. This foreshadows Jesus on the cross, absorbing the curse so we could receive God's blessing through faith.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does seeing God take the curse Himself change the way you view His love and reliability?
2. In what areas of life do you need to be reminded that God has already proven He will keep His promises through Jesus?

Wrap-Up

God's promises to Abram were big, and they pointed to an even greater promise fulfilled in Jesus. Just as Abram was made right with God through faith, we too are credited as righteous when we believe in Christ. The same God who walked the covenant path alone for Abram took the curse for us on the cross. Let's anchor our lives in this trustworthy promise!

Challenge

This week, identify one promise from God's Word you will choose to believe daily (write it down and speak it out loud). If you have not yet trusted Jesus alone for your salvation, take that step this week—talk with a leader or group member. Consider participating in any upcoming church prayer or baptism-related opportunities as a response to God's faithfulness.

Closing Prayer

- Thank God for His unbreakable promises and the way He took the curse upon Himself through Jesus.
- Pray for group members to walk in the freedom and assurance of being declared righteous through faith.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to deepen our trust and make our lives reflect genuine belief in the Gospel.

Handout

Life Group Handout: A Promise is Given (Genesis 15)

Key Verse to Remember: Genesis 15:6 (CSB) – “Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.”

Quick Reflections:

1. One promise from God I will believe this week: _____
2. A doubt I want to bring honestly to God: _____
3. How the Gospel (God taking the curse) encourages me today: _____

Action Step:

- Memorize Genesis 15:6.
- Share with someone this week how God’s promises give you hope.

Discussion Questions Summary (for personal reflection or family use):

- Where am I struggling to believe God?
- Am I trusting Jesus alone for righteousness?
- How will I live differently because of God’s faithfulness?

Prayer Requests:

Bring this handout back next week to share what God is doing!