

## The Life of Abraham:

### Key Scriptures: Genesis 15:1-21

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" <sup>4</sup> And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. <sup>7</sup> Then He said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it." <sup>8</sup> And he said, "Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?" <sup>9</sup> So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup> Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup> And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. <sup>12</sup> Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. <sup>13</sup> Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. <sup>14</sup> "And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions." <sup>15</sup> "Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. <sup>16</sup> "But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." <sup>17</sup> And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. <sup>18</sup> On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates--

**Key Point:** It's not that we don't waver—  
But His faithfulness never fails.

## TALK IT OVER

**Start talking:** Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- If someone could guarantee you *one promise* about your future (and you'd know it would definitely come true), what kind of promise would you want it to be?

**Reflect, Think, & Share:** Read through the key scriptures and share any observations or questions with the group.

- In Genesis 15:1, What fears might Abram have been facing, and how does God's promise speak to those fears?
- What does v.2-3 teach us about bringing our doubts and frustrations to God?
- Abram both doubted about God ("Will You keep Your promise?") and doubts about himself ("Can I really do what You're asking?"). Which of those two types of doubt do you wrestle with more, and why?
- What does v. 6 teach us about the role that faith plays in salvation? What insight does Paul give us about this statement in Romans 4:3-5?
- When God walks between the pieces in the covenant ceremony in v. 9-17 that should stun us. What does this tell us about the nature of God's promises and the kind of relationship He desires with us?
- In Sunday's message, Kyle said, "Not only did God take the penalty if He failed, but He also took the penalty if we failed." How does that deepen your understanding of grace and what Jesus accomplished on the cross?
- What are the details God tells Abram in v. 13-16? What does He mean, saying, "the iniquity of the Amorites is incomplete?" (to know more about how v. 13, is mathematically possible, and fulfilled, watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elaezewuxhU> )
- Abram's faith wasn't perfect, but it was real. How can we be a church where people can be honest about their doubts, but encourages them to grow in faith, past them?
- Have you ever looked at the boundaries of the land in v. 18? Why hasn't Israel ever approached the fullness of these boundaries?

**Start doing:** What are the doubts you have about God or His plan for your life? This week, talk to God about them in prayer, and ask him to strengthen your faith in Him no matter what.

**Prayer:** Do you have any specific decisions or areas of life where you could use prayer from others asking God to guide you? If you feel comfortable, share these issues with your study group so that they can pray with you and for you.

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