

God's Covenant With Abram

Genesis 15-16

Read Genesis 15.

God reminds Abram of His promises and confirms them with a covenant.

- Genesis 15:6 is a key verse in the Bible. What more does John 8:56 reveal about Abram's faith?
- Have you accepted God's gift of righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ?

Principle: Faith and righteousness are gifts from God.

Read Genesis 16:1-6.

Abram and Sarai sinned and conceived a child through Hagar.

- How did Abram and Sarai show both faith and unbelief in their thinking?
- What have you learned about waiting for God's wisdom, perfect plan and timing?

Principle: True faith waits for God's timing.

Read Genesis 16:7-16.

The angel of the Lord affirmed blessings for Hagar and Ishmael.

- What promises did the angel of the Lord give to Hagar?
- What do you learn about God through His care for Hagar and Ishmael?

Principle: God gives all we need to follow His Word.

Review Genesis 15-16.

- What good has God given you through a hard situation?

Main truth: God gives all we need to follow His Word.

Scripture Memory Verse

"Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness." – Genesis 15:6

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Exploring the Christian Faith

An Attribute of God

from this week's passage

Provider

God provides for every creature He has made. He feeds the birds and gives us our daily bread. We do not have strength or goodness of our own, but God gives it to us generously. He provides a way out of temptation and protects us from evil. God's greatest gift is His Son. Because He gave us His Son, we can trust Him to give us everything else we need.

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A Basic Truth of the Christian Faith

What is eternal life?

Eternal life is God's gift that comes from believing, knowing and loving God and Jesus Christ.¹ Eternal life begins as soon as we become God's child and never ends.² Our bodies die, but we are alive with Christ and forever freed from all sin.³ God's children enjoy His presence now, in heaven and in Christ's kingdom forever.⁴

John 17:2-3¹; Luke 23:43²; Matthew 25:46³; Revelation 11:15⁴

Think About It

Do people become angels when they die?

Angels will always be angels and people will always be people. God created two kinds of real moral beings that relate to Him personally – angels and humans. God created angels to help God's children (Hebrews 1:14). God provided a way of redemption for people, while angels long to know the redemption humans experience (1 Peter 1:12). God takes His children to heaven to join the angels in worshipping God perfectly (Revelation 7:9-17).

Will heaven be boring if all we do is worship?

Living with God in heaven will be more exciting than anything in this life (1 Corinthians 2:9 and Revelation 21:1-5). It will be perfect like the Garden of Eden before sin entered the world. We will have perfect minds and hearts. We will never grow tired of God and never again sin (Hebrews 12:22-23). Just as the disciples recognized Jesus, we will know our loved ones who love Jesus (John 20:16, Luke 24:31). Better yet, we will see God the Father and God the Son (Revelation 22:4). Christ will satisfy us with His love and there will be no more sadness (Revelation 7:17). We will serve our loving, great God forever (Matthew 25:21-23).

How can death be a good thing for God's children?

Death itself is not good, but what awaits God's children beyond death is amazing. Jesus Himself experienced and conquered death for us (1 Corinthians 15:22-26). Death could not hold Jesus and cannot hold God's children (Romans 4:24-25). The process of death may frighten us, but Jesus is with believers and promises they will not see death (Hebrews 2:14-15). When we close our eyes in death, we will awaken to see Jesus in heaven (John 14:2-3). Life on earth is a great gift that will continue exactly as long as God has planned for us (Psalm 139:16). Life in heaven is even better than the best earth can offer (Philippians 1:21). When Jesus returns, He will give us new and glorious bodies like His (Philippians 3:20-21) that will never get sick, old, weak or ever die. We will never be afraid, forgetful or ignorant again. We will be as God originally created us to be (1 Corinthians 15:42-57).

To learn more Basic Truths of the Christian Faith, visit mybsf.org.