

Listen, watch, or read the sermon on the website if you missed it. Turn to the back for an outline of the sermon.

This week's reading in the 2015/16 reading plan includes: Genesis 26-32; Matthew 25-28; Mark 1-3

Ice Breaker: Tell the group about the most "impossible" or "unlikely" thing that happened to you.

1. Discuss anything that jumped out at you in your private devotions this week.
2. Tell the group what part of Abram's call you find most thought provoking and why? How does your choice relate to your life?
  1. Is it that he was worshipping false God's and not seeking the Lord like Noah at the time God called him?
  2. Is it that he was not given clear direction on what to expect or even exactly how to proceed?
  3. Is it that the promise of God was to be so far reaching as to bless all the families of the earth?
  4. Is it God promising to overcome the physical barriers that would make this seem impossible?
3. Together read Genesis 15:1-6. What was it that made God see Abraham as righteous before him?
  1. Together Read Romans 4:13-25. How can you be seen as righteous before God?
4. What was Abram's response to God's call?
  1. Read James 1:22-25 and consider Abraham. Was he a hearer only or a doer?
  2. Now consider your own life and ask God if there are areas where you are hearing but not doing.
5. God accomplishes his plan and delivers his promise despite lapses in Abraham's faith. Why does God do this?
  1. Together Read Genesis 15:7-21. Who is represented as the smoking fire pot and flaming torch in this covenant ritual?
  2. Who has been obliged to fulfill the covenant in this passage? Consider also Isaiah 41:13-14, 48:6-11.
6. Think of one way to describe what trusting God to deliver on his promises would look like in your life?
  1. What does it look like to trust God?
  2. We are only justified and seen righteous before God by trusting in him during this lifetime (cf. Rom 4:23-25).

Sermon Outline:

**I. God initiated His promise with Abram.** (Gen. 11:27-12:9)

- A. Our relationship with God starts with His call to us.
- B. Obedience to God's Word is the profession of our faith.
- C. Reality of our faith is proved by the testimony of our actions.

**II. God kept His promise to Abram even in his failures of faith.** (Gen. 12:10-15:21)

- A. Partial obedience results in much confusion.
- B. God often works the greatest growth of our faith out of our deepest disappointments.

**III. God fulfilled His promise to Abraham through the supernatural birth of a son.** (Gen. 21:1; Luke 1:30-33)

**Sermon Idea:**

"Nothing can stop God's promises but our unbelief can keep us from them."