

SERMON: Trusting Our Covenant Keeping God

March 3, 2019

SERIES: Genesis: A Journey of Faith

SPEAKER: Pastor Mark

CONNECT (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

REVIEW (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 15:7-21

SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. Doubting God's Promise
- II. The Sign of God's Promise
- III. The Guarantee of God's Promise

GROW (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group. Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Have you ever had doubts about God's promises or plans for your life?
2. Abraham had faith (Genesis 15:6) and yet he still had doubts (15:8). How can faith and doubt co-exist? Have you experienced this? What did Abraham do with his doubt?
3. God answered Abraham's doubt with a covenant. What does the covenant that God "cut" with Abraham teach us about God? What does it teach us about us?
4. God revealed to Abraham that the fulfillment of his promises would be difficult and costly (Gen 15:13-16). How does this point to the life of Christ? How does it inform our life today within the New Covenant?
5. Pastor Mark identified two doubts that we can have in life: 1) How can I trust God; 2) How can I trust me? How does God's covenant with Abraham and his covenant with you through Christ, answer these doubts? How would you respond to someone who said "I know I can never live up to God's covenant with me."? (Hint: Remember we are all both ungodly and righteous – Romans 4:5).
6. Think about Genesis 15:17. Only God passed through the cut animals. He would be responsible for both covenant parties (God and Abraham). In Galatians 3:13 Paul explains this by saying that Christ became the curse for us. It is important for us to remember that Jesus didn't just die for us as a hero, but that he died a cursed death for us as a criminal. How would your life be different if you really believed that Jesus took God's curse for you?

Pray: Praise God for his willingness to take your curse for you. Confess ways that you doubt God's promises for your life. Ask God to strengthen your faith as you look to Christ as your covenant keeping God.