



Dgroup Discussion Guide for October 18, 2015

## Anchor Your Life on the Promise of God

SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 15

### ***The Faith of Abram***

Though he was a man of God, Abram didn't have great faith to begin with. This is demonstrated, for instance, in Genesis 12, when—fearing that he would be put to death in Egypt over Sarai—Abram told his wife to lie to the Egyptians by telling them that she was his sister instead of trusting God to protect them as they sojourned. However, when it came down to the more significant situations, Abram was able to demonstrate great faith by responding to the Lord with obedience.

What was his secret? In Hebrews 6:17-19, it says, ***So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, He guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain.*** Abram's faith was anchored on God. An anchor is only as good as whatever it latches onto; if we set ourselves on something that is temporary and/or unreliable—like relationships with people—it will not keep us afloat for long, but if we anchor ourselves solely on God then we can be assured that we will not be swept away by the waves.

### ***God's Covenant with Abram***

In Genesis 15, Abram reveals doubts with God's promises. For one thing, he—in reference to God's declaration that He will make him a great nation—reminds the Lord that his wife Sarai has yet to bear children. Another instance is when God reminds Abram that He will bless him with possession of the land he was residing on. His response in Genesis 15:8 is, ***"O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?"*** God convinces him by entering into a covenant with him.

After Abram sets up for the covenant ceremony by making a pathway bordered by halves of slaughtered sacrificial animals, the Lord puts him into a deep sleep. God reiterates His promise to Abram in Genesis 15:18, saying, ***"To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."*** Then, He—as a smoking fire pot and flaming torch—passes through the pathway, effectively sealing the covenant. This act is significant because it is usually the "weaker" party that makes the promise by walking through the path; however, in this instance, the Lord Himself chose to pass through it. In this, God is telling Abram that He promises to bless him and the world, even if it means that His son has to tear Himself apart, to die, for that to come to pass.

### ***The New Covenant***

In Jeremiah 31:31-33, God promises a new covenant, saying, ***"Behold the days are coming when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days. I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts... for they shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."*** This new covenant is the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham and to the world. With this, God restores us to Himself. This covenant was "signed" by Jesus in Luke 22:20 by way of the Lord's supper, and sealed with His death on the cross.

When we surrender our lives to Christ by making Him our Lord and Savior, we enter into the new covenant, which confirms that we are in a relationship with God because of what Jesus has done. Galatians 3:13-14 says, ***Christ***

**hanged on a tree”—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised spirit through faith.** In this case, the blessing of Abraham refers to God dwelling with us. Jesus is the promised blessing, so we must anchor our life on Him, the promise of God.

**Covenant Living**

In light of this new covenant, how are we supposed to live?

**1. Absolute security**

Because the sole signatory of the new covenant is Jesus, it is His responsibility to keep it. As long as we have a genuine relationship with Christ, we can count on absolute security when it comes to God’s love for us.

**2. Passionate obedience**

More than just obeying God for the sake of being obedient or keeping God happy, we should obey Him out of a passionate heart. Once we realize just how much God loves us, a desire to give your loyalty to Him through obedience naturally follows.

**3. A life of repentance**

We must also learn to practice a life of repentance. Because Jesus died on the cross for us, we are able not only able to approach God, but to establish a relationship with Him. Asking God for forgiveness is merely realigning ourselves with God’s covenant, as it is us acknowledging that because of Jesus’ sacrifice we are able to come back to God.





**4. Preaching the Gospel to ourselves daily**

The Gospel is essentially the new covenant. Christians tend to see the Gospel just as a tool for evangelism, but in actuality, we need it every single day.

**APPLICATION:**

Patently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage’s lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

Read Genesis 15 . What is God’s covenant to Abraham? How did Abraham react to the covenant? How are we affected by this covenant?

	<p>Personal: What does God’s covenant mean to me?          Who is the object of our faith? Is our faith anchored on God? How do we know that our faith is anchored on God?          Do I live my life as a recipient of God’s new covenant? Is Jesus truly my Lord and Savior?          Does my life show <i>absolute security, repentance, passionate obedience</i> ?</p>
	<p>Family: What are the promises of God that we hold on to? Why is this/ are these promises special to us?          How do we as a family follow through and do our part in order to see the fulfillment of God’s promises to us?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: Am I allowing myself to be held accountable for the kind of life I live?          How are we living out the gospel? Does our life show our faith?</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: Look back at the list of people you want to share the gospel with. Make an effort this week to invite them to our Weekend Encounter on October 31 and November 1.          Pray for our church event and for the people who will come to attend.</p>

**PRAYERS:**

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.