SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

LINK TO WATCH SERMON

GOD OF THE COVENANTS

LINK TO LISTEN TO SERMON

Covenant With Abraham

Warm-Up Question:
Describe the best guarantee you've ever had on a product & why it was so good?

READ: Genesis 15:1-21

I. THE ESSENCE OF FAITH

- Discuss the promise God gives Abram in v. 1. Why would this bring comfort to Abraham? (Think about Abram already having to trust God to leave his land (12:1), a famine being in the land (12:10), fear of Pharaoh (12:12), and now the promise of having a child in the midst of being so old (15:2-5).
- What's the difference in just believing the LORD exists verses believing the LORD here in v. 6?
- Think of a life circumstance that challenged your faith.
  - How were you tempted to trust in your self? Your plan. Your gifts. Etc.
  - Did you feel God calling you to trust him and his promises in that situation? Did any specific promises encourage you during that time?
- What was Abraham's reward for believing the LORD? Read Romans 4:1-5 and discuss what this promise means for all how believe in the Lord?

II. THE ASSURANCE OF FAITH

- God had Abram cut animals in half in order to make a covenant to keep his promises with Abram & all those after him. What is the significance of putting Abram to sleep (v.12) and walking through the bloody pieces (v. 17) himself?
- Read Heb. 6:13-20.
  - How does what God did in Gen. 15 point to Jesus work on the cross?
  - How does what God did here with Abraham and with Jesus give assurance of his promises of our good in a way that religion and our good works ever could?
- What are some implications of this for our daily life? Think about 1) trusting God in hard/doubting times, 2) having a clean conscience, 3) living on mission

Prayer

1)
2)
3)

SEVEN RIVERS CHURCH

God of the Covenants: Abraham

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Gen. 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your
shield; your reward shall be very great.” **2** But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I
continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” **3** And Abram said, “Behold, you
have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” **4** And behold, the word of the
LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” **5** And he
brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number
them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” **6** And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to
him as righteousness.

Gen. 15:7 And he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this
land to possess.” **8** But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” **9** He said to him,
“Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young
pigeon.” **10** And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did
not cut the birds in half. **11** And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

Gen. 15:12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great
darkness fell upon him. **13** Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be
sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred
years. **14** But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great
possessions. **15** As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. **16**
And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

Gen. 15:17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch
passed between these pieces. **18** On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your
offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, **19** the land of the
Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, **20** the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, **21** the Amorites, the
Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.”

Gen. 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house
to the land that I will show you.

Gen. 12:10 Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the
famine was severe in the land. **11** When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, “I know that
you are a woman beautiful in appearance, **12** and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his
wife.’ Then they will kill me, but they will let you live.

Rom. 4:1 What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? **2** For if
Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. **3** For what does
the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” **4** Now to the one
who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. **5** And to the one who does not work but
believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,

Heb. 6:13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he
swore by himself, **14** saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” **15** And thus Abraham, having
patiently waited, obtained the promise. **16** For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in
all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. **17** 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, **18** 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. **19** We have this as a sure and steadfast
anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, **20** where Jesus has gone as a
forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.