

Genesis—Series Overview

Embarrassing Ancestors and Our Glorious Hope

The book of Genesis is all about God making an extravagantly gorgeous Creation to declare His glory and the horrifying result of our ancestors' rebellion against His kingly rule. It was written to remind us of our good God's promise to undo all the terror that our treason has wrought. It shows us our ancestors' faltering walk of faith and His faithful care for them, all the while paving the way for the coming King who would deliver us from ourselves and all who oppose our good God. The New Heavens and Earth will perfectly declare His praise.

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Trust in the God of Abram. Review His promises. Believe God that He will do what He said He will do. Act accordingly.

Look, See with what a great love He loves us! The graphic display of God's covenant faithfulness tends to offend our modern sensibilities, but it helps to explain why Jesus needed to die such a gruesome death for us to have life.

Encourage one another! Turn to Christ individually, as families, and as a congregation. Let us encourage others to trust Him too. In all our daily realities, let us cheer one another on to trust Christ together.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
March 3rd, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 15: 1 – 21

Abram's Very Great Reward

1. God Reveals More About His Covenant with Abram.
2. God & Abram Seal Covenant with Ratification Ceremony.
3. Christ Is the One Who Walks Through the Pieces for Us.

The Lord reveals more of His incredible covenant with Abram and his descendants. He will not only bless him and make him the father of nations, but his seed will be uniquely blessed and inherit the Promised Land. All of these radical promises find their fulfillment in Jesus who comes as the promised seed to restore the land and redeem Creation as the birthright of all His siblings.

Evening Service:

Revelation 4 – 5

Biblical Worship

1. Our Sovereign God Is Gathering Worshippers.
2. God Is Worthy of Exclusive Worship.
3. The Scope of Worship Is Local, Regional, and Global.

We don't worship God the way that we should. Since the fall of humanity into rebellion and idolatry, we have been unable to worship God in Spirit and Truth. But praise be to God, Christ has come to redeem us out of false worship to the right worship of the one true God.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

After driving home the horror of our first parents' rebellious breaking of their covenant with God in the first 11 chapters of Genesis, we now focus on the wonders of the new covenant God makes with His people. God wants us to see how fantastic His promises are to Abram and all who will like him trust God instead of idols. Even in the covenant ratification ceremony, God takes pains to show us that He alone is faithful and keeps both (His and our) ends of the bargain.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ **Genesis 15:1-21**. DISCUSS: What would happen to the party who broke this covenant? Why does only God "walk" through the animal pieces? How does Jesus pay for our covenant breaking? PRAY, "Lord Jesus, thank You for doing everything for us. You alone have faithfully loved us. Teach us how to trust You more than what we can see. Help us, Holy Spirit, we pray."

Sunday PM

READ today's passage: **Revelation 4-5**. How does this picture of worship inform us about eternity? Why is this important? REJOICE in God's glory. PRAISE Him for His holiness.

Monday

READ **Genesis 15:1-6; Hebrews 11:6-16**. DISCUSS: What is faith? Why is it so important? Do either of these passages present Abram's faith as perfect? How is the object of His faith the emphasis? PRAY for God's faithfulness to be made known. REPENT of ways you (we) trust other things more than we trust God and His promises. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead us in biblical faith.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 15:1-6; Romans 4:1-8**. DISCUSS: What did Abram deserve? What did God give Him? Why? What role did faith play? PRAISE God for His grace in blessing Abram. PRAY, "Lord God, You have blessed us in Abram and showed us grace in the gift of

faith. Teach us to believe You in all Your promises. Amen."

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 15:1-6; Romans 4:9-15**. DISCUSS: Was circumcision a necessary work for Abram to be saved? How does the promise given to Abram point to Jesus? How much did Christ accomplish for our salvation? REJOICE for the blessing of salvation in Jesus by faith. PRAY, "Lord, You are merciful beyond all imagining! You have made promises to us that we don't deserve. You have kept them even when we disbelieve You and continue to rebel against You. Jesus, You alone have fulfilled all that You promised. Thank You!"

Thursday

READ **Genesis 15:6-21; Romans 4:16-5:2**. DISCUSS: How are we justified before God? How is this similar/different than Abram? Why is peace the result of our justification? REJOICE over the peace we have in Christ. SING praises to the Lord. Use a favorite hymn or praise chorus to sing your praises to our King. PRAY, "Lord Jesus, I struggle as much as Abram did to believe You and trust in Your promises. Please teach me to rely on You more and not on my own abilities. Strengthen my faith in You."

Friday

READ **Genesis 15:1-21**. DISCUSS: What have you been learning this week? How is the Holy Spirit convicting you of ways that you haven't been trusting Christ? REJOICE, for Christ has set us free from our bondage to death. PRAY for your neighbors who are deceived and unable to even see their own sin for what it really is. Pray for their repentance. Reach out in friendship.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow. READ **Genesis 16-17**. DISCUSS: What questions do you have? PLAN AHEAD: Do what you can today to free you up tomorrow to concentrate on worshipping Christ with His people. INVITE someone you know to join you for the worship service tomorrow. Ask Christ to draw them to Himself. PRAY, "Lord, please help FCCW together to grow in faith in Jesus. Teach us to love one another by trusting in Your promises."