Week 4: The Covenant with Abraham

A Sabbath Family Bible Study

Scripture Reading: Genesis 12:1–3; 15:1–6; 17:1–9 (KJV)

With Commentary

Genesis 12:1–3

1: "Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew the"

Commentary:

God begins His covenantal relationship with Abraham by calling him out of the world—away from idolatrous relatives and a corrupted culture. Covenant begins with separation. God does not build His holy nation on worldly foundations, but on obedience and faith.

2: "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing"

Commentary:

God promises not only individual blessing, but a **generational** legacy. True covenant thinking is multigenerational: God desires godly offspring (Malachi 2:15), not isolated believers.

3: "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

Commentary:

This is the covenantial promise, through Abraham's seed (Galatians 3:16), Christ would come. The covenant with Abraham is the foundation of God's redemptive plan for the world.

Genesis 15:1-6

1: *"After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward."*

Commentary:

God Himself is Abram's reward, not just land or children. In covenant, the greatest blessing is God's own presence, protection, and favor.

2: "And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

3: "And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir."

4: "And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir."

5: "And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be."

Commentary:

Even great men of faith wrestle with waiting. Abraham longed for the fulfillment of God's promise, especially concerning offspring. The covenant centers on seed; biological and spiritual.

6: "And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness."

Commentary:

Salvation has always been by **faith**. Abraham was justified before the Law, before circumcision, and before his name was even changed. Faith is the root of covenant obedience.

Genesis 17:1–9

1: "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect."

2: "And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thy exceedingly"

3: "And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,"

4: "As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations."

Commentary:

God's covenant comes with expectations. Grace does not cancel obedience. Covenant men must walk uprightly before God. Obedience is not the basis of covenant, it is the fruit.

5: "Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee"

6: "And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee."

Commentary:

God gives him a new name: from "exalted father" (Abram) to "father of many nations" (Abraham). God's promises reshape a man's identity and calling. The name reflects the mission.

7: "And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee"

Commentary:

God's covenant is **generational**. It is not private, but public. It forms households, tribes, and nations. Christian fathers must think in terms of legacy and lineage.

Discussion Questions for All Ages

Young Children:

- Who was Abraham?
- What did God promise to give Abraham?
- Can you name the stars like God told Abraham to try?

Older Children & Teens:

- Why did God change Abram's name to Abraham?
- What does it mean to live by faith like Abraham?
- Why is it important that God made promises not just to Abraham, but to his children too?

Adults:

- How does the Abrahamic covenant shape how we raise our children?
- What responsibilities do we have because we are heirs of the covenant (Galatians 3:29)?
- What role does faith play in multi-generational household building?

🎵 Psalm or Hymn to Sing

Hymn: "The God of Abraham Praise"

(Traditional Jewish melody, lyrics by Thomas Olivers, 1770)

 The God of Abraham praise, Who reigns enthroned above; Ancient of everlasting days, And God of love; Jehovah, great I AM! By earth and heaven confessed; I bow and bless the sacred Name Forever blest.

2. The God of Abraham praise, At whose supreme command From earth I rise, and seek the joys At His right hand.
I all on earth forsake, Its wisdom, fame, and power; And Him my only portion make, My Shield and Tower.

3. The God Of Abraham Praise,
Whose All-Sufficient Grace
Shall Guide Me All My Happy Days,
In All My Ways.
He Calls A Worm His Friend,
He Calls Himself My God;
And He Shall Save Me To The End,
Through Jesu's Blood.

4. He By Himself Hath Sworn,
I On His Oath Depend;
I Shall, On Eagles' Wings Upborne,
To Heaven Ascend:
I Shall Behold His Face,
I Shall His Power Adore,
And Sing The Wonders Of His Grace
For Evermore.

5. Though Nature's Strength Decay, And Earth And Hell Withstand, To Canaan's Bounds I Urge My Way, At His Command. The Watery Deep I Pass, With Jesus In My View; And Through The Howling Wilderness My Way Pursue.

6. The Goodly Land I See, With Peace And Plenty Blest; A Land Of Sacred Liberty, And Endless Rest: There Milk And Honey Flow, And Oil And Wine Abound, And Trees Of Life For Ever Grow, With Mercy Crowned.

7. There Dwells The Lord Our King, The Lord Our Righteousness, Triumphant O'er The World And Sin, The Prince Of Peace; On Zion's Sacred Height His Kingdom Still Maintains, And Glorious With His Saints In Light For Ever Reigns.

8. He Keeps His Own Secure, He Guards Them By His Side, Arrays In Garments White And Pure His Spotless Bride: With Streams Of Sacred Bliss, With Groves Of Living Joys, With All The Fruits Of Paradise, He Still Supplies.

9. Before The Great Three-One They All Exulting Stand,
And Tell The Wonders He Hath Done, Through All Their Land:
The Listening Spheres Attend,
And Swell The Growing Fame;
And Sing, In Songs Which Never End,
The Wondrous Name.

10. The God Who Reigns On High The Great Archangels Sing; And, "Holy, Holy, Holy," Cry, "Almighty King! Who Was And Is The Same, And Evermore Shall Be; Jehovah, Father, Great I AM, We Worship Thee."

11. Before The Saviour's Face
The Ransomed Nations Bow;
Overwhelmed At His Almighty Grace,
For Ever New:
He Shows His Prints Of Love, –
They Kindle To A Flame!
And Sound Through All The Worlds Above
The Slaughtered Lamb.

12. The Whole Triumphant Host Give Thanks To God On High;
"Hail, Father, Son, And Holy Ghost," They Ever Cry: Hail, Abraham's God, And Mine!
(I Join The Heavenly Lays)
All Might And Majesty Are Thine, And Endless Praise.

🏡 Family Application Points

1. Discuss Generational Faithfulness:

Talk with your children about how God works through families, not just individuals. Point out grandparents, great-grandparents, or biblical examples of generational blessing.

2. Mark Your Household as Covenant People:

Reaffirm that your home is not just a physical dwelling, but a covenant domain under God's rule. Consider hanging verses (like Genesis 17:7 or Joshua 24:15) as declarations of identity.

3. Practice Covenant-Building Habits:

Keep a family prayer journal to record answered prayers, generational goals, and blessings passed down. This helps children see God's faithfulness over time.

4. Walk by Faith, Not by Sight:

When the family faces hardship or waiting seasons, refer back to Abraham. God is

faithful, even when fulfillment seems delayed. Cultivate patient trust together.

5. Name with Purpose:

Consider the meaning of names in your family. Share the story behind each name, or choose Scripture-based names for future children with mission in mind.

A Sabbath Feast Prayer: (Used later when the Sabbath Meal is Ready)

"Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your Sabbath; a holy day of rest, joy, and renewal. As we partake in this meal, may our hearts be lifted in gratitude for Your provision and peace. Let this table reflect the peace of Your Kingdom and the love that binds our household together in Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen."

🙏 Closing Prayer

Almighty God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, we praise You for calling us into covenant with You. Thank You for the promises You made to Abraham and for including us in that promise through Jesus Christ. Help us to walk before You faithfully and raise our children as heirs of Your covenant. Teach us to think generationally, to live by faith, and to build homes that reflect Your Kingdom. May our family be counted among the stars; faithful, fruitful, and set apart for Your glory. In the name of the promised Seed, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.