

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

“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 thee...”

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.

“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.

“And in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

Commentary:

This is the Messianic 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

“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.

“And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless...?”

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.

“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

“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.”

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.

“Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham...”

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.

“And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant...”

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?
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Psalm or Hymn to Sing

Hymn: "The God of Abraham Praise"

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

1. 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.

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.
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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.