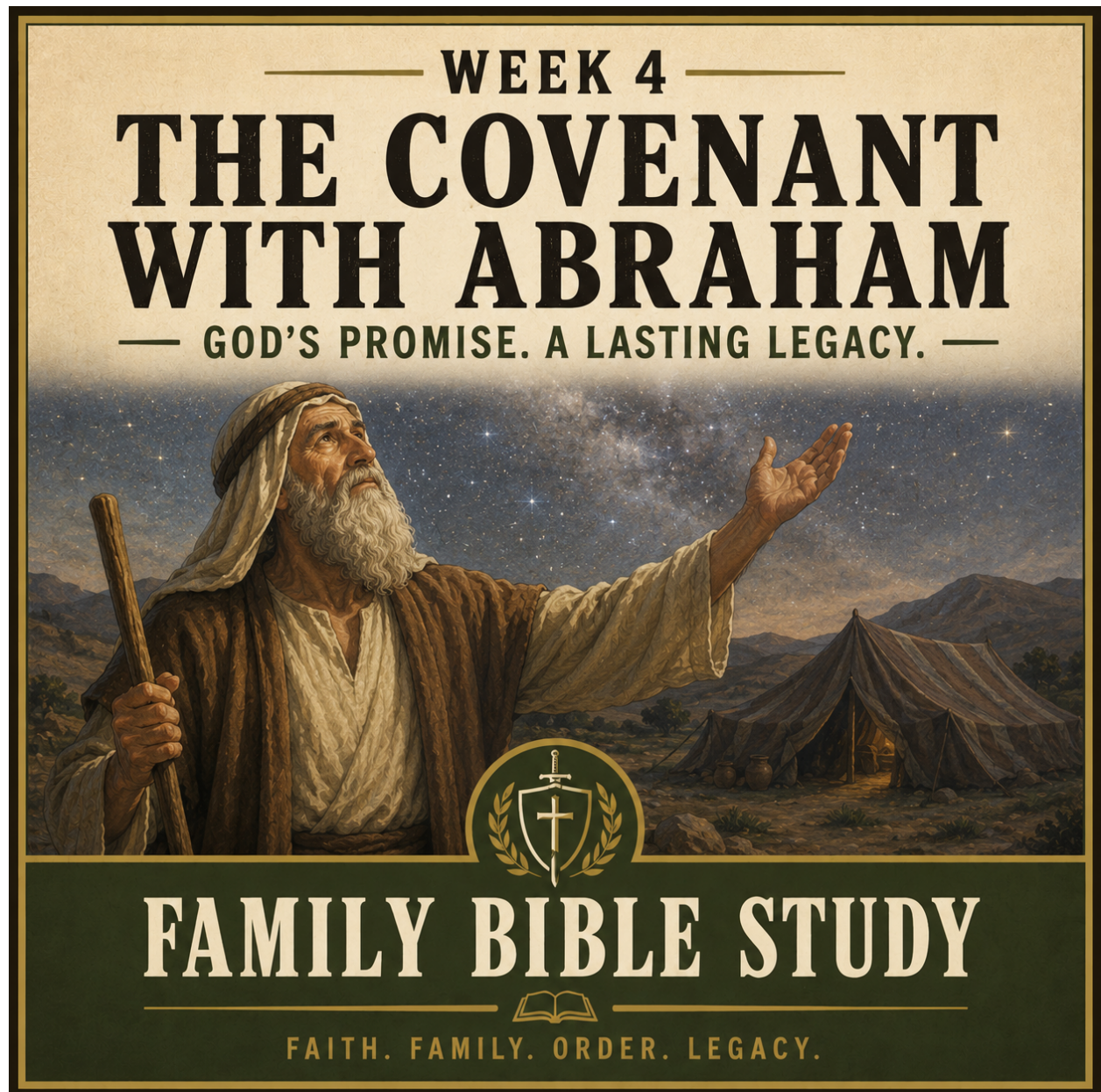




Week 4: The Covenant with Abraham

A Sabbath Family Bible Study

Introduction

God's covenant with Abraham marks one of the most important turning points in Scripture. Through one man and one family, God begins unfolding His plan to bless the nations, preserve a faithful people, and bring forth the promised Messiah. Abraham was chosen because of God's sovereign purpose and grace.

This covenant teaches us about faith, obedience, promises, and God's faithfulness across generations. Abraham was called to leave behind the familiar, trust God's word, and walk by faith even when he could not see the outcome. In return, God promised land, descendants, blessing, and an everlasting covenant. We are reminded that God's promises are certain, His timing is perfect, and faithfulness today will have consequences that reach far beyond our own lifetime.

Scripture Reading:

(Genesis 12:1–3; 15:1–6; 17:1–9, Psalm 105:8–11)

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 thee”

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”

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

God's call to Abraham begins with a command and a promise. Abraham was instructed to leave his country, his relatives, and the security of everything familiar in order to follow God by faith. He did not know where he was going, but he trusted the One who was leading him.

In these verses, God promises to make Abraham into a great nation, bless him, make his name great, and use him as a blessing to others. Most importantly, God declares that through Abraham all the families of the earth would be blessed, a promise ultimately fulfilled through Jesus Christ. We are reminded that faith requires obedience before the answers are known, and that God frequently works through faithful individuals to accomplish purposes that impact generations.

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.”

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.”

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

Commentary

God reassures Abraham not to fear and reminds him that He is both his protector and his reward. Although Abraham had received God's promises, he still struggled to understand how they would be fulfilled since he remained childless. Rather than rebuking him, God patiently directs his attention to the stars and promises descendants beyond that number.

Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness. Abraham was declared righteous not because of his works, but because of his faith in God's promise. We are reminded that faith means trusting God's word even when circumstances seem impossible, believing that God will do what He has promised in His perfect time.

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.”

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.”*

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 appears to Abraham and calls him to walk before Him in faithfulness and obedience. He then reaffirms and expands His covenant, promising that Abraham will become the father of many nations. As a sign of this covenant, God changes his name from Abram (“exalted father”) to Abraham (“father of a multitude”), demonstrating that God not only gives promises but also gives a new identity to those He calls.

This passage emphasizes that the covenant originates with God and is sustained by His faithfulness. Abraham’s responsibility was to trust, obey, and walk faithfully before the Lord. Families are reminded that God’s promises extend far beyond what we can see in the present, and that a life of faithful obedience leaves a legacy that will impact generations to come.



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 Reading - Psalm 105:8–11

8 He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations.

9 Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac;

10 And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant:

11 Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance.

Commentary

This psalm celebrates God's faithfulness to His covenant promises. Long after God first called Abraham, His promises remained certain and unchanging. The covenant did not depend upon Abraham's strength, but upon God's faithfulness.

These verses remind us that God works across generations. The promises given to Abraham were passed to Isaac, Jacob, and eventually the nation of Israel. Families are reminded that God's faithfulness extends far beyond a single lifetime. He remembers His promises, fulfills His word, and accomplishes His purposes in His perfect timing. Our responsibility is to trust Him, obey Him, and faithfully pass His truth to the next generation.

Hymn to Sing: “Father Abraham Had Many Sons”

(Cedermont KIds)

1. Father Abraham had many sons,
Many sons had Father Abraham.
I am one of them and so are you,
So let's just praise the Lord!

Right arm!

2. Father Abraham had many sons,
Many sons had Father Abraham.
I am one of them and so are you,
So let's just praise the Lord! Right arm, left arm!

3. Father Abraham had many sons,
Many sons had Father Abraham.
I am one of them and so are you,
So let's just praise the Lord! Right arm, left arm, right foot!

4. Father Abraham had many sons,
Many sons had Father Abraham.
I am one of them and so are you,
So let's just praise the Lord!
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot!

5. Father Abraham had many sons,
Many sons had Father Abraham.
I am one of them and so are you,
So let's just praise the Lord!
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot, Chin up!

6. Father Abraham had many sons,
Many sons had Father Abraham.

I am one of them and so are you,

So let's just praise the Lord!

Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot, Chin up, turn around!

7. Father Abraham had many sons,

Many sons had Father Abraham.

I am one of them and so are you,

So let's just praise the Lord!

Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot, Chin up, turn around, sit down!

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 Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.