

GENESIS: GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

Love: How do these devotions teach about the love of God and the love for one another?

Learn: What have you learned about where Jesus walked that helps you with where you walk?

Share: What key insights have you learned this week on how to share your faith with others?

Monday September 19th - *Read Genesis 12:1-9.* What does God promise Abram? Look specifically at verses 7, 2-3, and 2 (land, blessing, descendants.) Does Abram delay in following God? What does Abram do to commemorate his journey in following the Lord?

Tuesday, September 20th - *Read Genesis 15:1-6.* Many things have taken place since chapter 12. Abram and Sarai pretend to be brother and sister in Egypt, Abram and Lot separate so there is enough land to sustain their families, Lot is captured and rescued by Abram's army, King Melchizedek comes out to bless Abram with bread and wine and Abram gives one-tenth of all he has to him, and now Abram looks back on God's promises in chapter 12. Why do you think Abram believes God only after seeing the stars? What is different about this passage and yesterday's account of God's promises?

Wednesday, September 21st - *Read Romans 4:1-2.* We will now turn to Abram's influence and role in the New Testament for the rest of the week. Abram did many things (works) but what is Paul getting at? Works are something to be proud of but not part of our salvation. Think of it this way, did Abram receiving his blessings because of what he did? Or did he live into the grace of what God promised?

Thursday, September 22nd - *Read Galatians 3:1-9.* Paul again turns to Abraham to remind the Galatians that they cannot earn God's favor, it is freely given to both Hebrew and Gentile. The new interpretation of Abraham for Paul is anyone who steps out in faith and believes. It is the faith that justifies, not the practices or works. God's grace, responded to in faith, brings about a right relationship with God; justified by faith through grace. The gift of the Spirit comes when we believe.

Friday, September 23rd - *Read Hebrews 11:8-19.* How does this imagery speak to you of people longing for a homeland? What might we take from this passage about living in the world? Do we pair this notion of longing for a homeland, with the teachings of Jesus in reaching the least, last, and lost? What does this beautiful passage inspire us to think about the Kingdom of God?

Saturday, September 24th - *Read James 2:14-26.* James is the best place to find the balance between faith and works (what we believe and how we behave.) Our Wesleyan tribe teaches us that we can only come to God because of God's grace. We believe and our faith reconnects us to God. That love and appreciation for God's grace propels us to respond in action to the least, last, and lost.

Serve: Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

Healing Strength: Sheri Lathrop, Maple Hill UMC, Ray Lester (friend of Birdwells), Charlie Walters, Chris & Katie Hamon, Rex Townsend, Stan Ensch, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb's daughter), Janet Coons (Donna McCullough's daughter)

Homebound Members: Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Joann Young, Jeanne Carman

Military Personnel: Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark