



LESSON 3

Trusting God

OPEN IT

1. Describe a time when you had to trust someone at their word. Was it easy to trust them? Why or why not?

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Day 1

TODAY'S THEME: EXPLORE IT

Read Genesis 15

2. How did God appear to Abram and what did He say?
3. What questions did Abram have for God? How did God respond to him?
4. What did God tell Abram about the future?
5. What covenant (promise) did God make with Abram?

Day 2

TODAY'S THEME: DEALING WITH OUR DOUBTS

Read Genesis 13:1-4

We all have doubts at times, if we're honest. We all struggle to fully trust God and, we sometimes wonder how He is going to work things out. Even Abram had his doubts. God had already promised him twice that He would give him many descendants and a land to live in. And even though in the Bible this all happens in just a couple pages, Abram waited for years for God to fulfill those promises. It's hard to blame Abram. I'd probably feel the same way if I were in his shoes.

Sometimes when doubts arise in our lives, we don't know what to do with them. Sometimes we ignore them because we feel like having them makes us a bad Christian. Sometimes we just run from God because of them. When we have questions or doubts, it's OK to go to God with them. Be honest with God about what you're struggling with and let God speak into those concerns.

6. **Abram had his doubts, just as many of us do today. Why do you think we as humans tend to struggle with doubting God?**

7. **What things cause you concern or doubt in your life? How can you seek God in those areas?**

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here are some things you could pray for today:

Lord, I have a hard time trusting Your promises sometimes. Sometimes I have doubts about who You are, about who I am, and about what You're doing in my life. (Spend a minute and talk to God about something that maybe you're struggling with right now.) Thank You, God, for being with me in all my doubts. Amen.

Day 3

TODAY'S THEME: NEED A REMINDER?

Read Genesis 15:4–7

In our relationships with friends and family, it's always important for us to tell each other over and over how much we love and care for each other. One of the five love languages is "words of affirmation," in which we use our words to share how significant those close to us are. If I never tell my wife how much she means to me, she might begin to wonder if I truly did love her. It's the regular ways that I let my wife know that I love her that assure her of our relationship.

"And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness." It took God sharing His promises with Abram three times before Abram believed God. Abram had been following God for years at this point, yet was failing to fully believe God at His word. Abram needed some consistent reminders about God's promises to him.

It's good for us to have regular reminders of God's promises to us and His great love for us. That's why Psalm 1 says that the blessed man meditates on the law of the Lord. It's important for us to spend regular time with our God where we can bring our concerns to Him and we can hear from our God as He reassures us of His great, abounding love for us.

8. What are some of God's promises that mean the most to you?

9. What reminders has God built into the life of the church? What are they supposed to remind us of?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here are some things you could pray for today:

I know that I can be forgetful at times. I forget sometimes just how much You love me, how much You've done for me, and how much I can trust You moving forward. Your Word says that Your mercies are new every day. Lord, help me to grow in my appreciation of You every day. Remind me when I forget. Amen.

Day 4

TODAY'S THEME: SEALED BY SACRIFICE

Read Genesis 15:9-11

"Why can I trust you?" It's a question we've all asked at one time or another. We want to know that we can really have confidence in whoever we are supposed to be trusting! Abram had the same concerns when it came to God's promises. *"How am I to know that I shall possess it?"* He had some concerns about God following through on His word. So what was God's response? To sacrifice some animals. To us today, that seems pretty harsh and disgusting. But there was significance to these sacrifices.

In today's world, we sign contracts, where the signing of our name acts as our commitment to follow through on the terms of the contract we are agreeing upon. In that day, they didn't have contracts, so they sealed promises or covenants with the sacrifice of animals, where both parties would walk between the animals when they had been cut in half, repeating the terms of the covenant. This signified the importance of the covenant that it was sealed in blood and affirmed by both parties. But interestingly, in this covenant, only one side had something to follow through on—God's. God was promising to Abram that He would follow through on His word.¹

Today we live under a new covenant with God through the blood of Jesus Christ who died on the cross and rose again. This sacrifice before Abram was a type of Christ, you could say, that foreshadowed the blood that would be shed to usher us into a relationship with God.

10. How was covenant between God and Abram symbolic and foreshadowing to God's covenant with the Church today?

11. What terms are we expected to follow in the new covenant with God?

12. How does God's covenant with us today bring us assurance of the forgiveness of our sins and of our salvation?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here are some things you could pray for today:

Lord, thank You offering me salvation through Your Son. You paid the price for my salvation. I didn't bring anything to this covenant besides my own sinfulness, yet You've given me everything. You are so gracious. Help me to now live for You in light of all You've done for me.

¹ © 2018 David Guzik found at <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/genesis-15/>

Day 5

TODAY'S THEME: SNEAK PEAK

Read Genesis 15:12-16

Have you ever wished you could take a sneak peak into your future to see what would happen in your life? Maybe you want to know what college you'll end up going to, who you're going to marry, how many kids you're going to have, what job you'll have someday. Just getting a quick glimpse sure would be nice!

Well, whether he wanted it or not, Abram got such a sneak peak from God. And his sneak peak didn't reveal all sunshine and flowers. Instead he got a glimpse into what we now know was Israel's captivity and slavery in Egypt. Though Abram's offspring would be servants in a foreign land, God had promised to deliver them, punish the nation who enslaved them, and lead them out with great possessions. It sure does bring to mind Romans 8:28, *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."*

Just because something is going to work out for good doesn't mean that it is or seems good the entire time! Sometimes God uses great trials to bring about the greatest good.

13. If you got to see into your future and God told you that He had some really terrible things planned for your life, how would you feel? How would you respond? What would you do?

14. Why do you think God doesn't just let us all look into our futures and see what lies ahead of us? What do you think would happen if He did?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

I know that You are working all things out for good. I also recognize that that good may not always mean my pleasure. Lord, Your people have suffered greatly throughout history, yet You've always been with them. Let me experience Your presence in my own life, in the good times and the bad. Thank you for always being with me. Amen.

Day 6

TODAY'S THEME: I PROMISE

Read Genesis 15:17-21; Hebrews 6:13-20

When you make a promise to someone, how do you guarantee that you will follow through on that promise? You make a contingency. You might promise by something, or swear by something. And when you do, you always swear by something greater than just yourself. But if you are God and there is nothing greater than yourself to swear by, you swear by yourself. Hebrews 6 interprets God's oath before Abram as a sign-sealed assurance that God will deliver on his promise. Why? Two reasons: 1.) There is nothing greater than God to swear by, and 2.) It is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, if God says He's going to do it, He's going to do it. So the author of Hebrews uses this as a proof for us to continue to have confidence in God, that we have been given a hope through Jesus Christ that cannot be destroyed and will endure.

15. On a scale of 1-10, how much assurance do you have in God's Word? Why would you choose that number? What would it take for that number to grow higher?

16. How does hope change the way that we live our lives today?

17. How would you describe your hope in Jesus?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like You, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart. Amen.

Note: This study guide was written by Pastors Tim Badal, Mario Arindaeng, and Jeremy Anderson, Village Bible Church.
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