

GENESIS 15





Small Group Guide: God's Mission and Our Response

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Opening Prayer



The opening prayer is a way for us to invite God into our time together, center our hearts on Him, and prepare ourselves for the discussions ahead. This is an opportunity to thank God for His presence, ask for His guidance and wisdom, and open our hearts to what He wants to teach us.

Feel free to keep your prayer simple and conversational, as if you're talking directly to a close friend. If you're unsure what to say, focus on gratitude, ask for clarity and connection, and trust that God hears your heart.

Helpful Prayer Prompt:

- Thank God for bringing the group together and the opportunity to grow in faith.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to lead and guide your conversations.
- Ask for open hearts, wisdom, and encouragement for each person in the group.

Scripture Reading

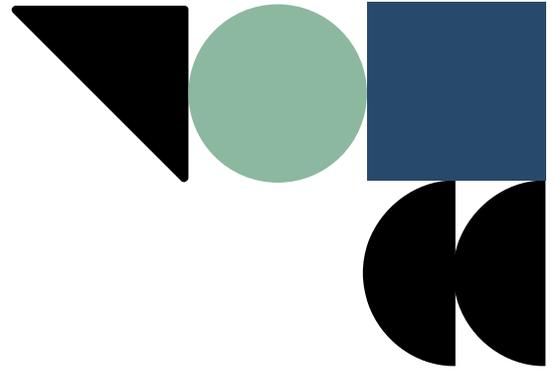


Genesis 15

In this powerful exploration of Genesis 15, we delve into the profound truth that God is the one who upholds and accomplishes His sovereign mission for humanity. The story of Abram (later Abraham) serves as a testament to God's faithfulness and the importance of trusting in His plan, even when we can't see or understand it.

We're reminded that just as God made a covenant with Abram, walking alone between the divided animals, He takes full responsibility for our salvation and spiritual growth. This symbolic act emphasizes that our relationship with God is based on His grace and faithfulness, not our own efforts. As we navigate our faith journeys, we're encouraged to stay behind God's shield of protection, trusting in His timing and purposes, even when circumstances seem impossible or unclear.



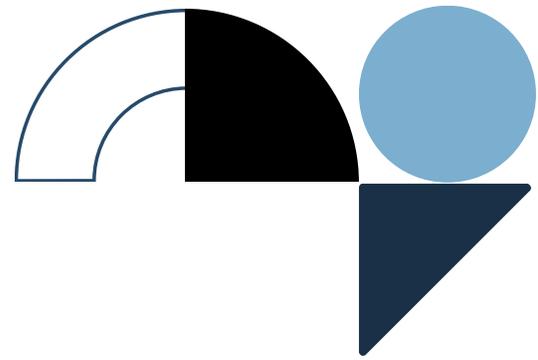


Key Takeaways

God is the one who upholds and accomplishes His own supernatural and sovereign mission for humanity.

Our role is to trust God, stay behind His shield, and follow His lead.

Salvation and spiritual growth are God's work in us, not our own efforts.



Discussion Questions

1. The sermon mentions that Abram may have been questioning God's promises. How can we maintain faith when God's timing doesn't align with our expectations?
2. God promised Abram protection, people, possession, and a pathway. How do you see these themes playing out in your own spiritual journey?
3. Discuss the significance of God alone passing between the divided animals in Genesis 15:17. What does this reveal about God's character and commitment to His promises?
4. How does understanding that salvation and spiritual growth are God's work (not our own) impact your approach to the Christian life?
5. The pastor emphasized staying behind God's shield. What are some practical ways we can avoid getting ahead of God in our daily lives?
6. Reflect on Philippians 2:13. How does this verse reinforce the sermon's main point about God working in and through us?
7. Share a time when you couldn't see or understand how God was working, but later recognized His hand in the situation.



Practical Applications

1. This week, practice surrendering control to God in an area where you've been striving in your own strength.
2. Set aside time daily to reflect on God's faithfulness in your life, perhaps by journaling or sharing with a friend.
3. Identify one area where you feel uncertain about God's plan. Commit to praying specifically about this, asking for trust and clarity.
4. Look for opportunities to encourage someone who may be struggling to see God's work in their life.



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Closing Prayer

Thank God for His faithfulness and sovereign control over our lives. Ask for increased trust and the ability to rest in His promises, even when we don't understand His ways.