

Big Idea: *God has already made promises to Abram, but in Chapter 15, these are formalized into a covenant with a ceremony. Notably, it is Abram's belief that God "counted to him as righteousness."*

I. Introduction

Genesis is a book of origins. What other "firsts" do we see in this chapter? Genesis 15:1-2

What practical steps can you take to remember that God is your protector and provider when you're facing difficult situations?

II. God's Promise

What are the different aspects of God's promise to Abram? *Genesis 12:2-3*
Genesis 13:14-16
Genesis 15:2-3

Is it OK that Abram asked questions of God (15:2 and 15:8)? Or are these questions incompatible with trust? What can you do to strengthen your faith when you're faced with uncertainty or doubt about God's plans for your life?

God asked Abram to believe in a future he could not see.
What promise is God asking you to believe in?

III. A Formal Covenant

What is the symbolism behind this unusual ceremony? *Genesis 15:9-12*

What does it mean that "the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete?" *Genesis 15:16*

Why does Abram not participate in this covenant ceremony? *Genesis 15:17-20*

IV. Conclusion

What part of this story becomes God's promise to us? *Romans 4:1-5*
Romans 4:20-25

What are some things you can do to remain patient and faithful while waiting for God's plans to unfold in your life?