

Bible Essentials

Scripture Passage: Genesis 15:1-20

As a group, share something about your past week. For example, share prayer requests and answers to prayer. Share the best and worst moments of your week (highs and lows). Write prayer requests here. Open with prayer for these requests and for God to open your hearts to this week's study.

What is the weirdest dream you've ever had that you still remember? Or the most repetitive dream?

Read today's passage. Discuss your initial impressions of the passage. Write any major points here.

Here is some context for Genesis 15:1-20.

In our last lesson, we saw Abram and Lot separate. The land wouldn't support both of them, so Lot went to the east and Abram went to the west. Then in Genesis 14, Lot got into some trouble. There was war in the area among several kings, and all the people of Sodom and Gomorrah were captured. Since Lot was living in Sodom, Lot was captured along with them. When Abram got this report, he pursued the armies and rescued Lot and all his possessions—and the rest of the people and their possessions. After this, Abram met Melchizedek, the king of Salam. Melchizedek was a priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram. Abram gave him a tenth of everything he had. The king told Abram to keep the goods for himself, but Abram refused. Instead, he gave glory to God. It is after this event that we find Abram in our passage today.

What are your thoughts about the context? Discuss the context as a group. Write some key points here.

Read the passage again. Use a different Bible version if you have one available. Have someone summarize the passage in their own words, and use this space to record that summary.

Look closely at the passage and answer the following questions as a group. Write notes in the space provided.

What does the passage say about God?

What does the passage say about people?

What does the passage say about God's plan?

What else strikes you about this passage?

Understanding how a passage fits into the overarching story of the Bible is important.

In addition to God's promise to give Abram an heir, Abram also finds out about the future God has laid out for his descendants. They will live in slavery for 400 years, which we see at the beginning of Exodus. But eventually, God will deliver them and bring them into the land God has promised. The fulfillment of this promise spans from Genesis to Joshua, and continues on as the people live in the land God has promised to them throughout most of the rest of the Old Testament. Through the fulfillment of this promise and God's protection on his people, even in the midst of slavery and captivity, Abram's line is preserved and eventually leads to the birth of Jesus. Jesus is the one who has come to truly free us from slavery—slavery to sin.

What are your thoughts on how this passage fits into the overarching story of the Bible? Discuss as a group. What questions do you have individually or as a group? Discuss potential answers.

As a group, use the following questions to apply today's Scripture passage to your life.
How does this passage affect how you view God?

How does this passage affect how you view yourself?

How does this passage affect how you will live your life?

Close in prayer, asking God to help you apply what you learned today.