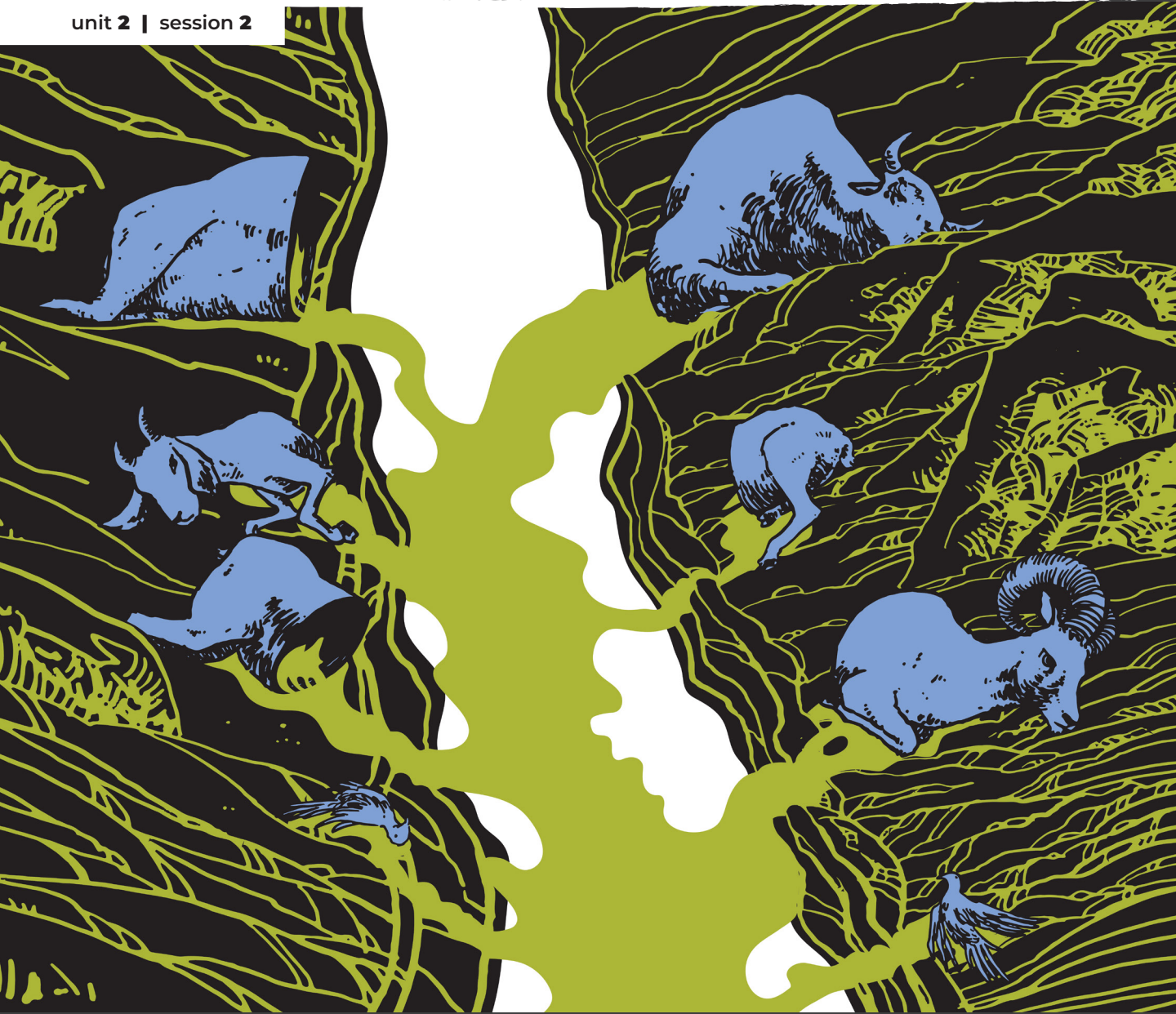


THE LORD MADE A COVENANT

unit 2 | session 2



CHRIST CONNECTION

God credited Abraham with righteousness on account of his faith (**Gen. 15:6**). Therefore, all who have faith in God, who raised Jesus from the dead for our salvation, are declared righteous. They are also considered as Abraham's children so that he indeed would be the father of many nations (**Rom. 4:3**).

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to dig in and read all of the content on this timeline.

Genesis 15

Genesis 17

GOD IS COMMITTED TO HIS PEOPLE

GENESIS 15:8-13,17-18

8 But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" 9 He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." 10 And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. 12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. 13 Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. . . . 17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram.

GOD KEEPS HIS WORD

GENESIS 17:1-8,15-19

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, 2 that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." 3 Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, 4 "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. 7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. 8 And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God." . . . 15 And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16 I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." 17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" 18 And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!" 19 God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him."

MAIN POINT.

God will always keep His **promises** to us.



THEOLOGY CONNECTION

THE CHURCH

The New Testament speaks of the church as the body of Christ, which includes **all of the redeemed from all the ages**: believers from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation.

DISCUSSION

GOD IS COMMITTED TO HIS PEOPLE

GENESIS 15:8-13,17-18

- What does Abram's question in verse 8 reveal about how he may have been feeling?
- ✝ • How does God walking the blood path in the covenant ritual foreshadow Christ's sacrifice for us (v. 17)?
- When have you struggled to believe in God's promises?

GOD KEEPS HIS WORD

GENESIS 17:1-8,15-19

- According to verse 1, what are the only conditions God demanded of Abram?
- 📖 • What is the significance of God changing Abram's name in verse 5? What does this reveal about God?
- Abraham was seventy-five years old when he left his home; here, he was ninety-nine. What does this teach you about the timing of God's promises?

IN WHAT AREA OF YOUR LIFE DO YOU STRUGGLE TO TRUST GOD? HOW CAN YOU TAKE STEPS TO TRUST HIM THIS WEEK?

CULTURAL CONNECTION

Is it difficult to trust others? And how do you trust God when you can't see Him? Well, to know God is to know He is trustworthy. Trust is a big deal in our society. Actually, it has always been a big deal. Once trust is broken, it's very difficult to regain. If you've experienced betrayal, then you know how difficult this can be. You may have experienced such deep betrayal that you find it hard to trust anyone. And when this happens, that struggle can hinder our ability to trust God. Can we really trust Him to take care of us? To guide us? To help us? Here's what we have to remember: God isn't like us. We break promises, but God does not. We look out for ourselves, but God looks out for His creation. We are faithless, but God is faithful. So, yes, you can trust God to take care of you, to guide you, and to help you. He won't ever go back on His word. God already fulfilled His word with Jesus's death on the cross. He's absolutely worthy of our trust.



DAY ONE

2 TIMOTHY 2:11-13

Have you ever heard the sayings, “you get what you deserve” or “what goes around comes around”? They both mean essentially the same thing: The way we treat others will often come back to us. In other words, if you mistreat people, then you’ll one day be mistreated. If you gossip about others, then you’ll probably be gossiped about. And on the positive side, if you give to others, you’ll receive. If you encourage someone, you’ll be encouraged. In a lot of cases, the world does work this way. But not always. At times, we don’t get what we deserve: we get better than we deserve.

With God, we rarely get what we deserve. We sin, but God forgives us when we repent. We disobey, but God redeems our bad choices for His glory and for our good. He teaches us lessons through our mistakes and draws us closer to Him. He doesn’t repay us for our wrongs, but He shows compassion to us. In this passage, Paul reminds the readers that God is always faithful, even when we are unfaithful, because He can’t go against His nature. Faithfulness is one of God’s most defining character traits. He is who He says He is. He does what He says He will do. And because God is faithful, we can trust Him. We can know God will fulfill every word He has spoken.

- **WHY DOES IT MATTER THAT GOD IS FAITHFUL?**
- **HOW SHOULD WE LIVE DIFFERENTLY BECAUSE OF GOD’S FAITHFULNESS TO US?**

PRAY

GOD, THANK YOU FOR BEING FAITHFUL TO ME WHEN I’M UNFAITHFUL. THANK YOU FOR BEING WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE AND DOING WHAT YOU SAY YOU’LL DO.



DAY TWO

ROMANS 4:16-25

A lot of us have probably hoped for something. And although it was coming, maybe it wasn't going to happen immediately. In fact, there may have even been moments when it felt like this thing wouldn't happen at all because so much time had passed. When this happens, our hope begins to dwindle—or we lose hope completely.

Imagine how Abram and Sarai may have felt when God promised an heir. Incredible joy. Surprise. Excitement. Anticipation. But then twenty-five years passed. Abraham was seventy-five years old when God first shared the promise with him; he was one hundred when his son was born. In that passage of time, it would be difficult to hold on to hope, wouldn't it? Abraham certainly wasn't perfect; he made mistakes. In fact, he even followed his wife's advice and had a child with one of his servants. He attempted to take matters in his own hands, but this passage in Romans explains that Abraham never stopped believing that God could fulfill His promise. Even when everything seemed stacked against him—even when his physical body was weakening—Abraham knew God was capable. Although Abraham made mistakes, God was kind and fulfilled His word. We can sometimes face circumstances that seem impossible, but God is able; God is faithful; and God is kind.

○ **WHAT DO YOU NEED TO REMEMBER GOD IS CAPABLE OF DOING?**

○ **WHEN HAS GOD BEEN FAITHFUL TO YOU THOUGH YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE? SPEND SOME TIME REMEMBERING.**

PRAY

LORD, I KNOW YOU ARE CAPABLE EVEN WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE. YOU AREN'T LIMITED BY MY WEAKNESSES, AND I PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR POWER.



DAY THREE

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

None of us were given the option of choosing our name at birth. Someone chose a name for us. Later in life, some of us choose a new name. Maybe we decide to go by our middle name, a nickname, or an entirely new name. But we're still the same person, regardless of what we may be called.

God gave Abram a new name—Abraham, which meant “father of multitudes.” In this moment, God didn't just change Abraham's name, He changed Abraham's identity. God gave Abraham a promise and a purpose. When we confess faith in Christ, we are also made new. We're given a new identity as sons and daughters of God, and we're made coheirs in Christ's inheritance. God also gives us a new purpose: to share the hope we have with others. But practically, we're made new each day. As we walk with God and grow in our knowledge and love of Him, we begin to know His character. We learn how Jesus lived, and we're compelled to live like Him—we make different choices than we did before. Knowing Jesus doesn't just make us better: knowing Him makes us entirely new. As believers, the living God dwells with us through the Holy Spirit. No matter what our previous identity may have been—no matter what sinful choices or mistakes we made before confessing faith in Christ—being made children of God makes us new creations. We're renamed, restored, and redeemed. We have the incredible gift of being made new in Christ.

○ **HOW HAS KNOWING JESUS MADE YOU NEW?**

○ **IN WHAT AREAS OF YOUR LIFE ARE YOU STILL CLINGING TO THE OLD CREATION—THE OLD YOU? WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TO EXPERIENCE NEWNESS IN CHRIST?**

PRAY

GOD, THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME A NEW NAME AND A PURPOSE. THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF BEING MADE NEW BECAUSE OF YOUR SON. HELP ME WALK IN THIS NEWNESS.

DAY FOUR

HEBREWS 9:11-14

This week, we learned about how God made a covenant with Abraham. In a covenant, both parties agree to a set of obligations. But in the ceremony that sealed the covenant, God fulfilled both His and Abraham's duties (Gen. 15:17). God, in the form of fire and smoke, walked in Abraham's place.

Before Christ's sacrifice on the cross, God made a way for His people's sins to be temporarily forgiven. They were required to make sacrifices, but these sacrifices had to be repeated year after year. The blood of animals could never be enough to atone for sin once and for all.

Here's the beautiful part: When Jesus laid down His life for us, He perfectly fulfilled the need for sacrifices for the rest of human history. Just as it was foreshadowed in the covenant ceremony with Abraham, Jesus took our place. When He walked the path to the cross, when He was beaten and bruised, when He had nails driven into his hands and feet, Jesus took our place. He fulfilled our part when He lived a sinless life. Piece all this together: The Son of God, who is God, came to earth to live a perfect human life so that He could die the death we deserved. We serve a God who was willing to live and die for us. He was faithful to keep His word to send a Savior by being our Savior.

○ **HOW DOES IT AFFECT YOU TO REMEMBER THAT JESUS TOOK YOUR PLACE?**

○ **HOW CAN YOU PRACTICE GRATITUDE IN YOUR DAILY LIFE FOR JESUS'S SACRIFICE?**

PRAY

JESUS, THANK YOU FOR DYING IN MY PLACE.
THANK YOU FOR SUFFERING FOR MY SIN. I
COMMIT TO LIVING MY LIFE AS AN OFFERING.



DAY FIVE

EPHESIANS 1:4-6



You probably have a basic plan for your life. Maybe you plan to graduate and then go to college. Maybe you plan to start a business or become a professional athlete. But it's also likely that you have a backup plan in case your original plan doesn't work out. Things are quite different with the Lord though. His plans never fail, and He has no need for a backup.

When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden, it may have looked like God's plan had failed. It may have looked like God needed to come up with a backup plan and that's when He decided to start working on His idea to send a Savior. But that isn't the case at all. Before the world was ever formed, God chose us as His sons and daughters. And these verses also tell us that this would be made possible through Jesus (v. 5). Sending Jesus wasn't an afterthought or a solution to a problem God hadn't anticipated. Jesus was always our Savior. Jesus was always going to be the way (John 14:6).

So what does this mean for us? Knowing that God always had a plan should comfort us. It should increase our trust in the Lord, and it should heighten our love for Him. In His perfect knowledge, God also knew we wouldn't always be faithful to Him, but He was faithful anyway.

- **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT GOD ALWAYS HAD A PLAN FOR OUR SALVATION?**
- **HOW DOES KNOWING GOD CHOSE US TO BE HIS SONS AND DAUGHTERS BEFORE WE COULD CHOOSE HIM IMPACT YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF HIS LOVE?**

PRAY

GOD, THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS HAVING
A PLAN TO SAVE ME. THANK YOU FOR
CHOOSING ME TO BE YOURS BEFORE I COULD
EVER CHOOSE YOU.