

WEEK 2 - INSPIRED PRAYER

November 1, 20015 / Genesis 15

“God is Spirit and those who worship God must worship Him in Spirit and in truth.” John 4:23

The Problem: No Child

Genesis 15:1-3

- Abraham can't see God's VISION, because he doesn't yet have any offspring.

“After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: ‘Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.’ But Abram said, ‘O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’ And Abram said, ‘Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.’” Genesis 15:1-3

Abraham's First Prayer: Will You Provide a Child?

Genesis 15:4-6

“And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: ‘This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.’ And He brought him outside and said, ‘Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.’ Then He said to him, ‘So shall your offspring be.’ And he believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness.” Genesis 15:4-6

- Abraham centers his REQUEST for offspring on God.
- Abraham CONFUSES his timing with God's timing.

Abraham's Second Prayer: Will You Give Us the Land?

Genesis 15:7-21

“And He said to him, ‘I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.’ But he said, ‘O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?’ 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.’ 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. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. 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. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.’ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your offspring I give this land.’” Genesis 15:7-18

- God assures Abraham that He is the LORD who is giving the land.
- God has Abraham set up a COVENANT ceremony.

- God is the covenant KEEPER.

"The Lord said, 'Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.' Then the Lord said, 'Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not will know.' So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord. Then Abraham drew near and said, 'Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?'" Genesis 18:17-23

"Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just? And the LORD said, 'If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.'" Genesis 18:24-26

"Then he said, 'Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.' And the Lord went His way, when He had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to His place. Genesis 18:32-33

Family Connection:

Preschool-K: Have you ever talked to God about something you have been worried about or afraid of? Why is it important to talk to God about those things?

Grades 1-5: How can prayer help us when we are worried about the future?

Grades 6-12: How are we going to figure out our roles in supporting God's work through this INSPIRED Journey? What kinds of prayers can we pray as we walk through the INSPIRED Spiritual Growth Journey? (Lord, help me trust you. Lord, give me faith. Lord, Grow my love for the church)