

Genesis: The Book That Started It All

Group Guide | October 19

Open with questions and prayer (20 minutes).

Start your group time by inviting everyone to share how they've seen God's faithfulness recently. You might ask:

- Where have you seen God's goodness or provision lately?
- What makes it hardest for you to trust God's promises?
- When has God come through for you in an unexpected way?

After some sharing, pray together. Ask God to help you see His goodness and to strengthen your faith in His promises.

Read and reflect on Genesis 15. Then, pray (45 minutes).

Read Genesis 15 together.

- What stood out to you about this week's sermon? How did it challenge or encourage you?

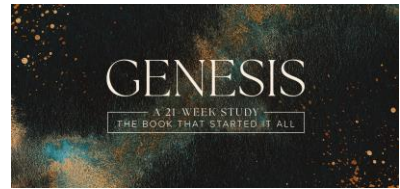
In this passage, Abraham wrestles with fear, uncertainty, and doubt. God responds not by rebuking him but by reminding him: *"Do not be afraid. I am your shield, your very great reward."*

He then seals His promise through a powerful covenant - one that points forward to the cross of Christ.

"Do not be afraid."

- What do you think Abraham was afraid of in this moment?
- What are some fears or uncertainties that make it hard for you to trust God right now?
- Read **Psalms 27:1** and **Isaiah 41:10**. How do these verses deepen your understanding of what it means that God is your "shield"?
- How does fear often distort our picture of God?

"I am your very great reward."



- When Abraham looked to the future, he saw barrenness and uncertainty. What “future fears” tend to weigh on you?
- God reminded Abraham that *He Himself* was the reward. What does that mean for you personally?
- Read **Philippians 3:8**. How does Paul echo this truth in his own words?
- How might our lives look different if we believed that God - not His blessings - is our ultimate reward?

The covenant and the cross

- Abraham wanted a sign he could hold onto. How did God give him assurance?
- What’s surprising about the way God makes this covenant? (Hint: He walks through the pieces *alone*.)
- Read **Romans 8:32**. How does the cross show that God has already proven His goodness and trustworthiness?
- How does this story help you respond when God’s promises seem delayed or distant?

Closing reflection and prayer (15 minutes).

- Encourage everyone to take a moment of silence to reflect on this question: “Where do I need to trust God’s goodness and promises more deeply this week?”
- Then, invite a few people to share what came to mind.

Finish by sharing prayer requests and have someone pray over the group—thanking God that He is faithful, even when we waver, and asking Him to strengthen everyone’s faith in His promises.