

THE PATH OF FAITH THROUGH THE PROMISES OF GOD

BIBLE STUDIES IN GENESIS 12-22 FOR GOSPEL COMMUNITIES



GENESIS 12-22

WEEK	PASSAGE	THEME
1	Genesis 12:1-9	God's promises
2	Genesis 12:10-14:24	The antidote to fear
3	Genesis 15-17	What does God require?
4	Genesis 18-19	God's mission
5	Genesis 20-21	Mess & Promises
6	Genesis 22	Faith in action

INTRODUCTION:

A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE GENESIS 12-22 STUDIES

The book of Genesis is a narrative most likely written by Moses. It tells the story of creation and the fall, to the promises made by God and the outworking of this within the story of the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph). Within the first 11 chapters we find the creation narrative, followed by the fall and its effects resulting in the flood (Noah narrative) and then the Tower of Babel.

In Chapter 12 we come to a turning point, the start of the patriarchal narrative where we see God actively (as he did with Noah) engaging with people to restore the creation back into relationship with himself.

These studies will explore the life of Abraham, the promises made to him by God and the outworking of that. Throughout this we will see the the amazing truth that '...all the promises of God find their yes in him (i.e Jesus)' (2 Corinthians 1:20).

Key themes within Genesis

- Gods character, his sovereignty, mercy and plan of salvation
- God's people, in God's place, under God's rule (Land, Offspring, Blessing)
- The relationship between obedience and faith

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:

1. GOSPEL COMMUNITY

- Take this to GC each week so you can follow along with the Bible Study.
- Use the WFL ideas on page 15 to help and direct your WFL times as a GC.

PRAYER POINTS

- We want to encourage you to be on mission to your non-Christian friends, family and contacts. Who are you on mission to? Make a list and pray for them regularly.

SUGGESTED READING:

If you would like to engage more with the Genesis 12-22 series:

- Gospel and Kingdom by Graham Goldsworthy
- Genesis: Salvation begins by Andrew Reid

WEEK 1 GC STUDY: GENESIS 12:1-9

Has anyone ever made a promise to you that you thought was impossible? Or have you ever done that to someone else? What was the result?

READ GENESIS 12:1-9

List the promises that God makes to Abram in this passage?

In context, what makes these promises sound implausible (or even impossible!)?

1. See Genesis 12:6
2. See Genesis 11:30
3. See Genesis 12:10-20

What is significant about these promises at this time in light of God's people's and where they are at? (See Genesis 11:1-9)

These promises that God makes with Abram in Chapter 12 become formalised in successive covenants in the coming chapters, which then undergird and set the path for the history of God's people. Thus, the themes within this covenant can be traced all through the Old Testament. Understanding this covenant becomes a key lens on God's character and his unfolding plan of salvation for his people.

What was Abram's reaction to what God told him? What does this teach you about Abram's character?

READ HEBREWS 11:8-16

How is Abram and his character described by the writer of Hebrews? What is the lesson to us from the way Abram reacted in this instance?

What do we learn about the character of God from the covenant that He made with Abram (despite the circumstances)?

How does what you know about God inform your faith?

In what respects does our faith today look ahead to "a better country"? How must our lives today—like Abram's in his day—look practically different to those around us?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 2 GC STUDY: GENESIS 12:10-14:24

Can you think of a time when you (or someone else you know or a celebrity) were fearful of something, and that fear led to making a poor decision? What was it that caused this fear?

READ GENESIS 12:10-20

What does Abram do in light of the problem that he is presented with? Considering God's covenant with him (12:1-3) what do you think the readers are to think of Abram's actions?

READ GENESIS 13:1-18

What is different about Abram's reaction to a problem this time around? What is the result of this choice (vs 14-18)?

How would you describe Lot's choice?

READ GENESIS 14:17-24 & HEBREWS 7:1-10

What does Melchizedek do to Abram and how does Abram treat Melchizedek? What is the significance of this in light of what we read in Hebrews 7?

How do we see the themes of land, offspring and blessing in these passages?

FOR REFLECTION

In what circumstances are you most likely to doubt the promises of God, or face "problems" in faithless ways?

What do you turn to when things go wrong and you doubt God's promises, love and power? What do we learn from the life of Abram about the best thing to turn to?

How could you be more intentional at looking to the promises of God in times of fear? (see Matthew 6:22-23).

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 3 GC STUDY: GENESIS 15 – 17

Have you ever had to wait a long time to receive something you were really looking forward to? How did you wait? With patience or with frustration? How did your actions reflect what you were feeling?

READ GENESIS 15

How does God comfort Abram in his fear?

READ GENESIS 16

How can we understand the change in Abram's actions in this chapter? How would you describe the motivation behind Sarai's actions?

Considering this, what do you think is the significance that God 'hears' (verse 11) and 'sees' (verse 13)? What does it teach about God's character?

READ GENESIS 17:1-14

How is the covenant that God makes with Abram expanded in this passage (see Genesis 12:1-3 and 15:5-6)?

What do these passages teach about the relationship between God's promises, human responsibility and faith?

Today, as people of the new covenant in Christ, we are called to something similar to what God called Abraham to. How are you going with offering your whole life to God in order to be used by him to complete his mission (See Matthew 16:24, 2 Corinthians 5:17-20)?

In times of longing and waiting, as we wait for God to fulfill his promises, what do these passages call us to do?

What are some practical steps that we can take to ensure that we are people who remember that God hears and sees us, and that he is with us (because of Jesus) despite the circumstances?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 4 GC STUDY: GENESIS 18:16-19:29

When you think about all the problems in this world, how do you usually react?
What reactions can you see in other people?

READ GENESIS 18:16-19:29

Why does God choose to let Abraham in on his plans?

What does God reveal about himself to Abraham?

What do we learn about the nature of human character in this passage? Think specially about Lot's reactions.

How do we see God's graciousness in this passage (see specifically 19:8 & 19:15-16)?

Why did God rescue Lot (see 19:29)?

Considering this, how do we see God's promise to Abraham play out in this passage?

What do these passages teach us about God's attitude towards sin? Do you share a similar attitude to sin in your life? Do you have sin that you are holding onto that is keeping you from following Jesus wholeheartedly? See Luke 17:22-33

How do you feel about God being the judge of this world? Do you see him as a just judge? Why or why not?

What does this passage teach us about the role and responsibility of God's people in terms of bringing about his promises?

As you think about the problems of this world and what we are ultimately waiting for, how can this passage remind you and encourage you?

GC PRAYER POINTS

Spend some time in prayer, asking God to rescue those in your life that you are seeking to reach with the good news of the gospel.

WEEK 5 GC STUDY: GENESIS 20-21

Can you think of a time in your life when everything felt like just a bit of a mess? How did you react to what was happening?

READ GENESIS 20 & 21:22-34

How would you describe Abraham's motivations and feelings from what he does in verses 20:1-2?

What happens to Abimelech due to Abraham's actions?

What good comes out of a not so great situation here?

READ GENESIS 21:1-21

What was Sarah's reaction to Isaac's birth?

How we can see God's faithfulness through the events that unfold in these chapters?

What can we learn from these chapters about the result of unfaithfulness and sin in our lives?

What other voices and promises are we tempted to listen to in our lives? What are the result of this?

When life does feel broken and messy, what can we turn to instead? How does this help us?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 6 GC STUDY: GENESIS 22

When you read or hear about people who have shown great faith, how do you feel? Inspired? Overwhelmed? Encouraged?

READ GENESIS 22

What reason does the passage give for what Abraham is asked to do here?

What does the test show about Abraham?

What are the three elements of faith that are laid out in this passage?

1. Verse 12
2. Verse 18
3. Verse 5, 8, 14

READ JAMES 2:14-24 & HEBREWS 11:17-19

How do these passages understand the relationship between faith and obedience?

What 'loves' do you have in your life that often seek your allegiance? How do they threaten your obedience to God?

What are the results of doubting God's provision in our lives? What will our lives be focused on if we don't trust God's promises?

On the other side of this then, what will our lives look like if we live in faith?

How do we ensure that we don't doubt, but continue to trust in the promises of God (see Romans 8:31-32)?

What commands and promises do we have from God this side of Jesus? How do these work together in a life of faith?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WHOLE FAMILY LEARNING (WFL) IDEAS FOR GENESIS 12-22 SERIES

1. Read 'God Makes a Promise' (page 73) from *The Ology* by Marty Machowski. Read the section together and use the questions on page 251 to springboard your conversations. Pray together.
2. Read any of the Abraham stories from 'The Gospel Story Bible' (pages 16-28) by Marty Machowski and discuss the questions after the chapter together.
3. Read 'Son of Laughter' (pages 56-60) from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd Jones.

Ask:

- What happened in this story?
- What promises did God make to Abraham?
- What do we learn about God?

Pray together asking God to help us love each other like Jesus did.

4. Read 'The Present' (pages 62-69) from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd Jones.

Ask:

- What did God ask of Abraham?
- What did Abraham do?
- How did God respond to Abraham's actions?
- How is Isaac like Jesus?

Spend some time praying together about these things and for help to share the good news of Jesus.

5. Listen to any of the Genesis episodes from 'The Word on the Street' Podcast. Pause it at the question time and discuss the questions together. <https://www.thewordonthestreetpodcast.com/>

SUMMERLEAS CHRISTIAN CHURCH MISSION PARTNERS

FELLOWSHIP OF OVERSEAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (FOCUS) & SUBBIES

FOCUS and Subbies are Christian international student society's that seeks to share the good news of Jesus with International students at the University of Hobart.



How Summerleas can help:

- Go along to FOCUS or Subbies for some free food, fun, friendship and Bible teaching. It's a great chance to chat to people who are interested to know more about Jesus.
 - FOCUS: Fridays 6.00-8.30pm (if your GC is bringing food please bring it at 5:30pm) at Wellspring Anglican Church
 - Subbies: Tuesdays 7-8:30pm at Wellspring Anglican Church
- Pray for them:
 - Pray that we will be keen to support this strategic ministry and that it would grow us in our passion for God's great mission!
 - Praise God for this wonderful opportunity to reach the nations.
 - Pray for Luke and the leadership team that they will speak the truth in love.
 - Pray that God will be working in the hearts of those who come along to hear and understand that Jesus is their Lord and Saviour

THE DURDIN FAMILY



Marc and Joey Durdin are another one of our mission partners at Summerleas Church. Marc is the developer of Keyman software which helps translate writing into native languages. Joey is a midwife who provides support and education to women in many ways. They are currently living in Cambodia

- Pray:
 - That they would be a light pointing to Jesus to the people around them in Cambodia. That they will be bold to proclaim Christ and show his love to the people in their lives.
 - Pray for Marc as he continues with the keyman project. Pray for good working relationships with his team and that this software will continue to enable God's word to go out to the world.
 - Pray for Joey as she continues to educate and support women remotely.
 - Pray that God would provide for all their needs financially and that new supporters will come on board with them.