

# The God Who Seals His Promise in Blood

**Genesis 15:1-21**

## **Student Devotion**

There are moments in life when God’s promises feel heavy. You believe them. You want them. You cling to them. Yet everything around you seems to move in the opposite direction. That is where Abram stands in Genesis 15. And it is in that very place God steps in and reveals a covenant so powerful that the entire story of redemption rests upon it.

This week you will walk with Abram into the tension between what God has said and what he can see. You will learn how faith leans on God when circumstances stretch thin. And you will see how God seals His promises with a covenant that cannot break.

## **Day 1: God Speaks Peace Into Fear**

***“After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram... ‘Fear not, Abram. I am your shield. Your reward shall be very great.’” (Genesis 15:1, ESV)***

### **Think About It:**

Abram has survived battles, refused Sodom’s wealth, and returned home victorious. People around him might think he is strong and confident. Yet Genesis tells us something different. His heart is unsettled. The promise feels far away. He still has no child. The land is filled with enemies. The future looks unclear. And God meets him right there.

The first words God speaks are simple. Fear not. God sees the fear Abram will not say out loud. He does not dismiss it. He speaks into it. Then God gives a reminder that anchors Abram’s heart. I am your shield. The strength Abram needs will never come from his resources or his protection strategies. God Himself is the shield around Abram’s life. Then comes a second promise. Your reward will be very great. Abram turned down Sodom’s riches. God tells him he will lose nothing by choosing integrity.

This is how God meets His people. He does not wait for fear to disappear. He speaks courage into the very place fear rises.

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**Pray It:**

Lord, speak peace into the places where fear still whispers. Help me see You as my shield and my reward.

**Do It:**

Write down one fear you rarely say aloud. Bring it to God in prayer today.

## **Day 2: God Welcomes Honest Questions**

***“O Lord God, what will You give me, for I continue childless...” (Genesis 15:2, ESV)***

**Think About It:**

Abram believes God, yet he feels the weight of unanswered promises. He is older. Sarai is older. Years are passing. And the only person who looks like an heir is a servant. Abram speaks with honesty. He tells God exactly what troubles his heart.

This is real faith. God does not rebuke Abram for speaking honestly. Scripture repeatedly shows that faithful people bring their confusion to God rather than hiding it. Moses wrestled. Hannah wept. David questioned. Jeremiah lamented. Honest prayer is a mark of deep trust. It says, “I believe You hear me. I believe You care.”

Then God answers with clarity. Abram will have a child from his own body. God names the promise in precise terms. He does not leave Abram to guess. The Lord is patient, present, and fully aware of the gap between promise and reality.

**Pray It:**

Father, teach me to bring my questions to You. Help me trust Your heart even when I struggle to understand Your timing.

**Do It:**

Speak one honest sentence to God today that you have been holding back.

## **Day 3: God Expands the Vision Faith Rested On**

***“Look toward heaven, and number the stars... So shall your offspring be.” (Genesis 15:5, ESV)***

**Think About It:**

God takes Abram outside and turns his eyes upward. The sky becomes a sermon. Abram

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sees countless stars stretched across the night. God says, “Your descendants will be like this.”

Up to this point Abram has been evaluating everything from ground level. He sees age. He sees barrenness. He sees the impossibility of a future family. God redirects his sight to the heavens. The One who created galaxies has no trouble creating a child. God does not shrink the promise to fit Abram’s limitations. He expands Abram’s vision to match divine power.

Then comes the verse that becomes the bedrock of the gospel: Abram believed the Lord. This faith is not self-generated strength. It is trust that leans fully on what God has said. And God counts that faith as righteousness. Abram is declared right with God long before he performs any act that might earn credit. His righteousness is God’s gift, not his achievement.

**Pray It:**

Lord, lift my eyes when I am stuck in what I can see. Help me trust Your power instead of my limitations.

**Do It:**

Spend two minutes outside tonight. Look at the sky. Let creation remind you that God will keep His word.

## **Day 4: God Seals His Promise by His Own Hand**

***“A smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between the pieces.” (Genesis 15:17, ESV)***

**Think About It:**

The covenant ceremony in Genesis 15 is the turning point of the entire chapter. Animals are divided. A path is formed between the pieces. In Abram’s culture this was the most serious commitment two parties could make. Both would walk through the pieces, declaring, “May the same judgment fall on me if I break this covenant.”

But something shocking happens. Abram does not walk through. God places him in a deep sleep. Only God passes through the pieces, symbolized by fire and smoke. God says in action what words alone could not express. “If this covenant fails, I Myself will bear the cost.”

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This is grace in its earliest form. The fulfillment of the promise does not rest on Abram's performance. It rests entirely on God's character. God binds Himself to His own word. Nothing Abram does can void what God has sworn by His own name.

This moment points forward to Christ. At the cross, God bears the covenant penalty. Christ becomes the One who is cut off for His people. The covenant in blood is completed in Him.

**Pray It:**

Lord, help me rest in the covenant You carry. Teach me to trust the God who guarantees His promises with His own faithfulness.

**Do It:**

Write this truth somewhere you will see it often: "God carries what I cannot carry."

## **Day 5: God's Promises Stretch Beyond One Lifetime**

***"To your descendants I give this land..." (Genesis 15:18-21, ESV)***

**Think About It:**

God finishes the covenant by describing in detail the land Abram's descendants will inherit. The boundaries are vast. The list of nations is long. Babylon, Egypt, Canaanite tribes, Amorites. Abram owns none of it. He has no child. He has no army. He has no influence. All he has is a word from God.

Yet God speaks as if the future is already complete. The Lord sees the end from the beginning. He speaks in certainty because His word defines reality.

Abram will not live long enough to witness the fulfillment. His faith rests in a God who works across generations. True faith takes God at His word even when the promise outlives the believer.

Your prayers for family, your obedience in quiet places, your sacrifice for the sake of the gospel, and your faith in unseen promises may carry results you will only see in eternity. Nothing given to God is wasted. His promises extend beyond your years and hold firm across centuries.

**Pray It:**

Father, give me faith that trusts You across generations. Help me live in obedience today even when I cannot see tomorrow.

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**Do It:**

Think of one promise from Scripture that feels distant. Write it down and ask God for the strength to trust Him with His timing.

## **Conclusion: The Promise Rests on God, Not on You**

Genesis 15 shows a God who speaks peace into fear, welcomes honest questions, expands faith's vision, seals His promise with covenant blood, and carries the weight of fulfillment entirely on His own shoulders.

Abram believed, and God counted him righteous. That pattern has never changed. Salvation has always rested on the God who keeps covenant, carries the cost, and completes His work.

Faith does not hold the promise by sheer willpower. Faith entrusts the promise to the God who never fails.

## **Closing Prayer**

Lord, thank You for meeting Abram in his fear and speaking peace. Thank You for receiving his questions and giving him assurance. Thank You for lifting his eyes to Your power and sealing Your promises with covenant commitment. Strengthen our faith. Teach us to trust You when the promise feels heavy. Anchor our hearts in the righteousness You give. Help us rest in the God who finishes what He starts. In Jesus' name, Amen.