

Genesis 15 – 17
The Gospel According to Genesis
Community group discussion questions

Opening Question: *If you could get an answer to one question, what would it be?*

Tell them: We left off in our study of Genesis 14 with Abram passing a test of reliance on God in front of two kings and the first recorded instance of tithing to a king and priest of God. This week we looked at Genesis 15 - 16.

Tell them: Pastor Michael made these three points about the Covenant with Abram seen in Genesis 15:

1. God lays out His covenant. **Ask them:** *What does the covenant include? ((1) God would make him into a great nation and so make his name great, and (2) God justifies Abrahams faith (3) through him God bless all people on earth).*
2. Abram/Sarai has an immediate solution (his servant/chief of staff/her servant) **Ask them:** *Like Abram or Sarai, have you ever tried to come up with a solution because it doesn't seem like God is moving fast enough?*
3. God has a better solution.

Here is the root question most of us have today:

1. How much longer? **Tell them:** Pastor Michael said, this is a question we ask if we don't like where things are at. It has to do with contentment. *What is your "how much longer" question nowadays? Do you have people in your life asking you how much longer? How do you answer them?*

Tell them: “How much longer” is less about patience and mostly about knowledge; it’s so hard to wait because we don’t know the future. This was the original sin, needing to know it all. **Ask them:** *Are you consumed with finding out something that you don’t have a biblical need to know?* It is the glory of God to conceal a matter. (see Prov. 25:2). The original sin was the sin of needing to know more than God gave us to know. Can you resist eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and instead rest in not knowing?

Psalm 13:

*“How long, Lord, will you continue to ignore me? How long will you pay no attention to me? How long must I worry, and suffer in broad daylight? How long will my enemy gloat over me? Look at me! Answer me, O Lord my God! Revive me, or else I will die! Then my enemy will say, “I have defeated him!” Then my foes will rejoice because I am upended. But **I trust in your faithfulness.** May I **rejoice** because of your deliverance! I will **sing praises to the Lord when he vindicates me.**” (Psalm 13, NET)*
What do we see is the answer in this Psalm?

2. Waiting looks foolish - **Tell them:** Pastor Michael said, “The spiritual person often looks foolish but is never selfish. We buy things on credit to get what we want while trying to convince ourselves we were faithful enough; no need to wait longer.” **Ask them:** *What kinds of things do we try to manufacture in our lives when it isn’t time to have them? (Pastor Michael calls it living on credit.)*
3. Believe – **Tell them:** James 2:19 says, “You believe that God is one; well and good. Even the demons believe that—and tremble with fear.” **Ask them:** *What do you think is the difference between the belief of Abraham and the demons?*

*We read in Gen 15:6, "Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord considered his response of faith as proof of genuine loyalty."
Genesis 15:6 (and Galatians 3:6; Romans 4:3; James 2:23.)*

Ask them: *If belief involves more than just a belief in God, but also includes patience waiting on him, acting selflessly, and hoping in him, do you believe in God's promises?*

Belief in God's promises, not just the existence of God, imputes righteousness on us all. **Ask them:** *How do we see the gospel in Genesis in these passages?*

Tweetable quotes to share with others and to think about:

"God has better solutions than our shortcuts, but sometimes they are perfectly delayed."

"'How much longer' is less about patience and mostly about knowledge; it's so hard to wait because we don't know the future. This was the original sin, needing to know it all."

"We buy things on credit to get what we want while trying to convince ourselves we were faithful enough; no need to wait longer."