



SDG Discussion Guide

Genesis 15
August 27, 2017

For starters:

How do you reassure someone your word is good or that you will do what you say? What's an example?

When was the last time you were struck by the magnificence of the stars, sky or the like? How did that moment make you feel?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday; or, group members may find these questions in print on that Sunday. Further, feel free to facilitate your own discussion regarding the respective text.)

1. What does Abraham fear most (vv 1-3, 8)? What do you think about this need of reassurance in Abraham?
2. How is "faith" related to righteousness (v 6; see Ro 4:18-22; Gal 3:6-9)? Which comes first? Which comes from God? Which is indispensable to a right relationship with God?
3. In verses 9-21, what do you think the cut animals signify? The blazing torch? The fire passing between the cut pieces?
4. What other questions does this passage bring up for you? Discuss.
5. Where in your life are you longing for some certainty?
6. Where in your life do you desire God to say, "Do not be afraid. I am your shield, your very great reward."
7. The Lord speaks frequently to Abraham. Does God speak to you? How?

Spend some time in prayer with your group, either as a whole group or in a division. Praise Him and confess in silence where you have been distant from Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to come. Ask God to bring forth any aspect of your life where you desire certainty, where you desire to know in more certain terms what your tomorrow will hold. Ask God for His reassurance and a glimpse of how in days passed He's protected you and bestowed His favor upon you and those around you. Ask Him to comfort, and to discomfort, you in the ways you need it most this season. Ask Him to show you where He may be calling you now -- perhaps by the way of leadership. Ask for His peace... go forth knowing you have it.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).