



Week 4: The Abrahamic Covenant

Christianity not a religion but rather a relationship...a friendship with God based on grace alone through faith alone. Grace means we do nothing and faith means God does it all. That's what makes Christianity so easy, and yet, so challenging. We tend to want to do it all and trust God for nothing. In Genesis 15, both God and Abraham demonstrate how this is supposed to work. Friendship with God is easier than you think.

Discussion Questions:

1. **Read Genesis 15:1-21**
2. Describe a time when you had to wait for something (a test result, a job interview, a difficult conversation, etc.). What was the hardest part? What does God say to Abraham to comfort him? How can this help us in a season of waiting?
3. James tells us that Abraham was a friend of God (James 2:23). What are some specific things in this passage that describe that kind of relationship? Do you view God as a friend? Why or why not? How can you begin to develop a friendship with God?
4. Discuss the significance of Abraham's belief being credited to him as righteousness. What did he do to *earn* this? This statement is the basis for the New Testament doctrine of justification by faith and what sets Christianity apart from every other religion (you can reference Romans 3:28; 4:1-4; 16-25; 5:1-11; Galatians 3:1-29; Ephesians 2:8-9). How would you describe this concept in your own words? Why do you think we struggle with grace and faith?
5. How does the concept of covenant deepen your understanding of God's relationship with Abraham? In what ways does the covenant ceremony between God and Abraham reflect the significance of covenant in our own lives, especially in the context of marriage?