




MAYFAIRKIDS

JESUS IS THE ONE THROUGH WHOM THE WORLD IS BLESSED

“WHO IS JESUS?” FAMILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE - Week 4, September 8



JESUS IS THE ONE THROUGH WHOM THE WORLD IS BLESSED

“All peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

GENESIS 12:3B

M

Meet Abram, a man whose remarkable faith gives him the most verses in Hebrews 11's “hall of fame.” A man who, unlike many familiar Bible figures, didn't grow up knowing God, but instead his family worshiped idols. Then God spoke to him, asking him to leave his home and go to the land God would show him.

God said, “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you,

and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Genesis 12:2–3).

Abram trusted this God he barely knew and embarked on an incredible journey into the unknown. He left behind his home of many years and all that was familiar. But many years passed, and he and his wife Sarai still had no children. How would he become a great nation?

Then God came to Abram again. “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield, your very great reward” (Genesis 15:1).

God invited Abram to look up at the clear night sky. Could he count the stars? That's how many descendants he would have! Abram looked and he believed God's promise. And the Lord credited it to him as righteousness (15:6).

Then something strange happened. Well, it seems strange to us, but it wasn't to Abram. You see, in Abram's time people would make promises to each other by cutting up animals, and then walking between them. It seems kind of gross, but in effect what they were saying was, "If I break my promise, let me be like this animal!" This was serious business! Both people making the covenant would have to walk through, both promising the other could take their life if they didn't keep their side of the covenant.

God told Abram to bring him a heifer, a goat, and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon. Abram brought them and knew what to do. He cut them in two and arranged them with the halves opposite each other.

The sun began to set, and Abram fell into a deep sleep. The Bible says that a thick and dreadful darkness came over him, which means he was really scared! God told Abram about his future, and the future of his descendants. Then a smoking firepot and a blazing torch appeared, both symbolizing the presence of God, and they passed between the bloody pieces. Abram didn't

have to walk through—just God! God took all the responsibility of keeping the covenant. What relief Abram must have felt!

More years passed, and when Abram was 100 years old, he did have a son and then eventually many descendants. But one of these descendants would truly make Abram the father of many. His name was Jesus, and through his death and resurrection, all who believe are welcomed into Abraham's family and can share in the blessing.

If you are a child of God, you are a child of Abraham. One of those stars was lit for you! You are loved and pursued as Abraham was. You are forgiven and righteous. You will have blessing and great inheritance. You are blessed to be a blessing. And God, the covenant keeper, assures all these blessings through the blood of his Son Jesus. Like Abraham, we could never keep the covenant on our own, so the Son of God gives his own life, and we must believe.

Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). What a blessing!



REFLECT

1. Did you notice that Abram's name changed to Abraham?
God did this! Do you know what each name means?
2. Read Genesis 15:6 and try to explain it in your own words.
3. Why is it significant that only God passed through the dead animals, not Abram?
4. How have you been blessed, and how can you be a blessing to others?

BIBLE REFERENCE GENESIS 12:1-3; 15:1-21;
GALATIANS 3:6-9; HEBREWS 11:8-12

KEY VERSE GENESIS 12:3