



**WEST
SIDE
CHURCH**

Week 5

Sermon Series: Sojourners: Genesis

Sermon Title: "Righteousness Comes by Faith"

Sermon Text: Genesis 15:1-21

Study Handout Week of: May 8, 2022

Group Week of: May 15, 2022

Sermon Date: May 22, 2022

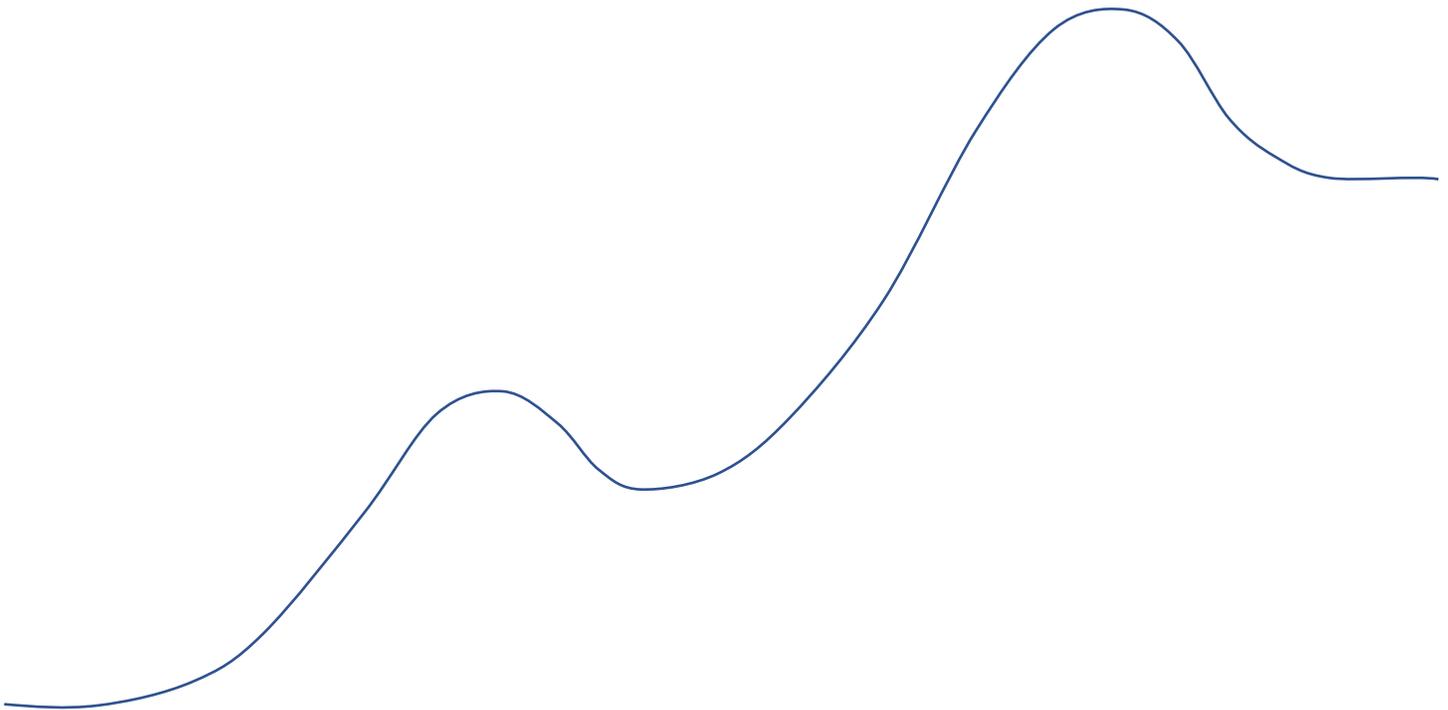
Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies

Day 1	Abram and Kedorlaomer – Gen 14:13-24
Day 2	Fear Not – Isaiah 43:1-13
Day 3	Saved By Faith – Romans 3:9-31
Day 4	Faith of Abram – Romans 4:1-25
Day 5	God's Promise – Deuteronomy 7:7-10

The Text: Genesis 15:1-21

Instructions

- 1) Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to His words.
- 2) Read the passage.
- 3) Using the "Story Arc" below, insert the verses according to how you see the story begin, grow, climax, fall, and finish.
- 4) Write out the main lesson of the story.
- 5) Write out some of the other lessons along the way.



Textual Questions

- 1) What is the central message of this passage?
- 2) What is uniquely important about verse 6?
- 3) Why does the smoking firepot (censure) pass through the pieces in verse 17?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) Think back to the events of chapter 14 (the war with Kedorlaomer). How do the two parts of God's word to Abram relate to previous events? What verses or promises from God's word have been helpful or encouraging to you in your walk with Christ? Explain how those verses relate to the challenges of your life with your Life Group.

- 2) Although we might think that Abram would be on a mountain high after the battle, it is clear from verses 2,3, and 8, that he is actually struggling with doubts. What are some doubts that you feel you shouldn't struggle with, but do anyway? What have you seen God do in your life to encourage you through those doubts?

- 3) When Abram doubts that God will provide him an heir, God takes Abram outside, tells him to count the stars and says that is how his offspring shall be. Verse 6 says "Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness." How can it be that God would credit Abram righteousness, just for believing in this promise? How does that relate to "grace by faith"? (For further study, read Romans 4).

- 4) Based on Genesis 15:6, how do you think people in the Old Testament were saved from their sins? How does the sacrificial system put in place by God through Moses relate to what we are reading in Genesis 15:6?

- 5) Abram believes he will have a child, but he isn't sure how God could allow him to take possession of the land. Therefore, God reveals his plan to Abram in verses 13-16. There we see that God knows what will happen to His people, the evils that will befall them, and how in the end, it will turn out for deliverance. How does knowing that God knows the future, the good, the bad, and how it all turns out, effect your heart? Share an example of this below.

- 6) In the end, the "smoking firepot" passes between the pieces that have been cut in half. God here is making a covenant with Abram in a way that Abram can understand. God is promising to make these things happen for Abram and his descendants. How does this picture come back in the person of Christ? And what encouragement or surety does that provide for you as it relates to God's promises?

- 7) Write out one doubt you struggle with and a corresponding truth below. Spend some time remembering Christ's sacrifice as the guarantee of His promises. Share your answer with your group.