

The Faith of Abraham and God's Promises

Genesis 5:1-6

Main idea: To inspire faith in God's promises and His ability to make the impossible a reality

Topic: Count the Stars

Suggestions for moving forward with your sermon:

1. Emphasize the faith of Abraham: Highlight the story of Abraham and how he believed in God's promise to make his descendants as numerous as the stars. Use Genesis 15:5-6 to show Abraham's faith and how it was credited to him as righteousness.
2. Explore the concept of God's faithfulness: Discuss how God fulfilled His promise to Abraham by making his descendants into a great nation. Use Genesis 22:17-18 to show how God reiterated His promise to bless all nations through Abraham's offspring.
3. Connect the promise to the birth of Jesus: Show how God's promise to Abraham ultimately led to the birth of Jesus, who brought salvation to all. Use Galatians 3:16 to explain how Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise.
4. Discuss the significance of stars in biblical symbolism: Explore the symbolism of stars in the Bible, such as representing God's creation, guidance, and blessings. Use passages like Psalm 147:4 and Daniel 12:3 to support this idea.

5. Highlight other instances of God making the impossible possible: Share stories from the Bible where God fulfilled His promises or accomplished the seemingly impossible. For example, discuss the parting of the Red Sea (Exodus 14) or the resurrection of Lazarus (John 11).

6. Encourage practical application: Provide practical suggestions for your listeners on how they can trust in God's promises and have faith in His ability to make the impossible a reality in their lives. Offer examples of how they can step out in faith and rely on God's guidance.

Language suggestions and additional verses:

1. In Genesis 15:5, the Hebrew word for "count" is "saphar," which can also mean "to recount" or "to declare." You can emphasize the idea of declaring God's promises and faithfulness.

2. Consider including Hebrews 11:12, which speaks of Abraham's faith and how his descendants would be as numerous as the stars.

3. Use Isaiah 40:26 to highlight God's power and ability to call each star by name, emphasizing His sovereignty and control over all things.

Remember to weave these suggestions into your sermon in a way that reinforces your main ideas and supports the message of God's promise to make the impossible a reality.