

And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness. Genesis 15:6

## I. AFTER THESE THINGS

- Abram had been called by God to leave his home country and relocate to a land that he would show him. It was promised to him that he would become a great nation (Gen. 12:1-3).
- Abram traveled with his family to the land of Canaan. A famine drove him to Egypt. He eventually left and settled in Hebron, where God promised him offspring that could not be counted (Gen. 12:4-13:18).
- A war broke out that led to the capture of his nephew, Lot. Abram gathered his men, overtook the aggressors, and saved his nephew and the king of Sodom and his men. Abram was blessed by the priest Melchizedek, king of Salem (Gen. 14:1-24).

## II. I AM THE LORD

- God identifies himself as the One who called Abram out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give him a land to possess. He will be Abram's shield and reward (Gen. 15:1-7).
- Abram reasons with God—he has no offspring through which to account for descendants other than a servant who will inherit his estate. God promises a biological heir (Gen. 15:1-4).
- Abram is told to look to the heavens. As the stars that fill the sky, so shall his offspring be (Gen. 15:5; Isa. 40:25-26).
- A covenant is “cut” with Abram, who asks for assurance of God's promise. Animals are divided, arranged, and protected. God appears, speaks, and assures (Gen. 15:9-21; cf. Ex. 12:40-41, 13:21, 19:18, Jer. 34:18).

## III. HE BELIEVED

- Abram believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness. Abram is justified by grace through faith. The gospel in advance (Gal. 3:6-9; Rom. 4:20-25; Eph. 2:8-9).

**KNOW:** God promised Abram an inheritance. That inheritance was beyond what Abram could hope for or begin to see in its fullness. Abram believed, and God called him righteous. The gospel in its kernel form was revealed, a gospel we all benefit from as Abram's offspring.

**DO:** God is faithful. Believe that. Believe and hope in the gospel of justification by grace through faith.

**Suggested Reading:**

*Basic Christianity* by John R.W. Stott  
(Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

*God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible* by Vaughn Roberts  
(Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

**Children:**

*The Gospel (Big Theology for Little Hearts)* by Devon and Jessica Provencher  
(Available in the LifePoint Kid's Library)

**Next Week's Preaching Text:** Luke 22:14-23

**Questions/Discovery Points for  
Life Groups/Families**

**Please Read Genesis 15:1-21**

1. How does God communicate with Abram? Is this typical in the Bible?
2. Why would Abram need God to be his shield?
3. What is Abram's reward?
4. What problem becomes apparent here? How does God address the problem?
5. What is God promising when he passes (as a flaming torch) through the animal carcasses?
6. Abram believed and became righteous. What hope is there for you in this?