



Sermon Discussion Guide


Theophany: Faith in Light of the Promises

Genesis 15:1-21; Romans 4:1-5, 18, 20-25

Brandon Laurantzon, October 17 & 18, 2015

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Genesis 15:1-21. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Have you ever had an experience in your life, like Blaise Pascal, where you felt like you met God?
- 2 What was your one big/main takeaway from the service? If someone had arrived as everyone was leaving, and they stopped you in the parking lot and asked, "What was the sermon about?" what would you have said?

GOD PROMISES US HIS PRESENCE

- 3 Brandon asked, "What problem are you facing? What is keeping you awake at night? What do you wish you could change with just the snap of your fingers?"
- 4 How does remembering that Moses wrote Genesis for the Israelites in the wilderness help us understand God's promise of his presence in Genesis 15?

- 5 How does the promise of God's presence allow you to endure suffering and not abandon the faith in the darkest of times?

GOD PROMISES US HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS

- 6 Read Romans 4:1-5, 18, 20-25. How do most North American Christians think they are made right with God?
- 7 Why is it imperative that we have a "Paris Effect" with our own righteousness? What was the point of the trash bag illustration?
- 8 How is our faith skewed when we don't believe in the promise of God's righteousness? How have you attempted to produce your own righteousness rather than rely on the righteousness of Christ?

GOD PROMISES US AN ETERNAL HOME

- 9 Do you view yourself as a pilgrim in this life who is headed for the promised land? What is the link between the Resurrection and the idea of a "reservation"?
- 10 The character Max in the movie clip said, "I have a sadness shield that keeps out all the sadness, and it's big enough for all of us." What sad things do you look forward to *not* seeing in heaven?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?