



SERIES: BEGINNINGS

Chapter 5 - "A Flawed Founding Father"

I. Introduction

II. Genesis 15 – The smoking pot and flaming torch at night

BLOOD

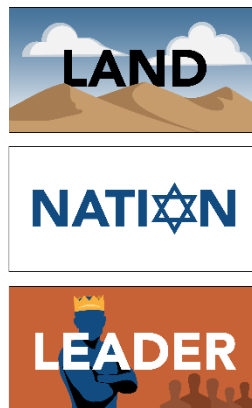
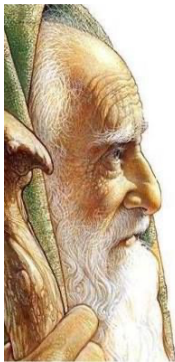
**There are NO "human" conditions &
God vows to keep His conditions**

BLOOD

III. Name Change – Genesis 17

- Abram (exalted father) -----> Abraham (father of a multitude)
- Sarai (my princess) -----> Sarah (mother of nations).
- Isaac -----> Laughter

IV. Déjà vu – Genesis 20



PROCESSING TIME: If you were God, what would you do with Abraham right now? What does this story tell us about God? _____

V. Abraham's Only Begotten Son – Genesis 22

Traditional Understanding: Do you love your boy more than God? **OR**, Just how "obedient" will you be?

In Reality: Do you believe that I will keep my promises?

VI. Abraham Swindled – Genesis 25



Life Group Questions:

- 1) Remember to open your life group with a time to “preach” to each other (a.k.a. proclaim how God has been at work in/through you this past week).
- 2) What aspect of tonight’s lesson was new, challenging, confusing, or convicting to you?
- 3) Each time God reaffirms His promise, Abraham’s faith seems to waver (e.g., the laughter over Sarah’s pregnancy, lying about Sarah being his sister).
 - Why do you think Abraham struggled to trust God despite His repeated assurances?
 - Can you relate to Abraham’s pattern of initial belief, subsequent doubt, and eventual learning? How does God’s faithfulness to Abraham encourage you when you struggle with your own faith?
 - What does it mean for you personally to live in the reality that God’s promises are not dependent on your perfection or performance?
- 4) Review Genesis 22.
 - How does the connection between Isaac’s near-sacrifice and Jesus’ actual sacrifice deepen your understanding of God’s plan of redemption?
 - What does it look like practically to grow toward “unshakable trust” in God like Abraham did? How would you describe your level of faith trust right now? What are the chief areas that cause moments of doubt or disbelief?
- 5) James calls Abraham “God’s friend” because of his faith journey. What does it mean to you to be a friend of God? How does this differ from other ideas of spirituality or religious achievement? Do you have this kind of experience with God? Why or why not?
- 6) Close by sharing prayer requests / praying as a group.