

Abrahamic Covenant: Righteousness of Abram (Gen 15:1-6)

After these events, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

Do not be afraid, Abram.

I am your shield;

your reward will be very great.

But Abram said, "Lord God, what can you give me, since I am childless and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" Abram continued, "Look, you have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house will be my heir."

Now the word of the Lord came to him: "This one will not be your heir; instead, one who comes from your own body will be your heir." He took him outside and said, "Look at the sky and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "Your offspring will be that numerous."

Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness. (Gen 15:1-6, CSB)

1. Righteousness means to do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord. What did Abram do that was righteous?

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Teacher Notes

This lesson is to introduce the student to the concept of righteousness, which is a determination made by God. The student may not fully understand this concept; but, it is hoped that the student draws the association that obedience to God is both right and morally good.

Read the Genesis 15:1-6 dramatically and help the student visualize what is happening. Note that Abram does not see God but hears His voice.

At this point Abram has already obeyed God to leave Haran, from his family and from his father's house to an unknown land, which becomes Canaan some 400-500 miles away (i.e. Seattle, WA to Crater Lake, OR). God has already shown Abram the land He will give his descendants; but, at their age, Abram and Sarai are childless.

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To help the student understand what Abram did, present a scenario he might understand:

1. Imagine hearing only the voice of your dad or mom telling you to leave Seattle to go to Crater Lake.
2. You leave and safely walk for several months to Crater Lake where the voice tells you that this land will be given to your children and their children.
3. During the whole time, you've been blessed with food, shelter, wealth, and protection from enemies.
4. Because you're old, you inquire about children, and the voice tells you something fantastic – your offspring will be as numerous as the stars in the sky!
5. Do you believe the voice? Do you have no doubt and trust that this promise will occur? What did Abram do?
6. What was right and good about Abram?