



## BIBLE READING GUIDE

### WEEK 2 PREVIEW

*It would be hard to overstate the importance of this moment in biblical history. We are now being introduced to Abraham as the father of the Jewish people and the patriarch with whom God made a foundational agreement (covenant). God's covenant with Abraham is at the heart of what's going on throughout the Old Testament. Pay attention to how God advances and develops his covenant with Abraham through his son, Isaac, and his grandson, Jacob. God challenges their faith and develops their character through moments of crisis. God, however, continues to be the main character in this story. Remember, the Bible is God's story!*

### READING HELPS

- DAY 1**  
**Genesis**  
**12-13**
- God initiated a relationship through the covenant so that he might give people correct knowledge about himself.
  - Notice Abraham's movement from place to place and the importance of geography. Abraham's relocation lays a foundation for the importance of the land of Canaan in the Bible's story.
- DAY 2**  
**Genesis**  
**14-16**
- Notice that once the covenant with Abraham is established in chapter 15, a greater emphasis is placed on his children.
  - We need to be patient as we wait for God to work out his plan in his time.
- DAY 3**  
**Genesis**  
**17-19**
- Meditate on how our obedience to God's commands relates to the fulfillment of his promises.
  - God's destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah shows us that he takes sin seriously and so should we.
- DAY 4**  
**Genesis**  
**20-23**
- It's interesting that Hagar was sent back into slavery and told to have a better attitude about it. We often find that God doesn't overturn social and political institutions because they are all characterized by human sin.
- DAY 5**  
**Genesis**  
**24-26**
- Notice how the story of Rebeka focuses on God's sure guidance and her willingness to follow his lead.
- DAY 6**  
**Genesis**  
**27-29**
- Notice how God provided children to women who otherwise could not conceive. This shows that he was responsible for the growth of Abraham's family.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do we sometimes ignore God's call on our lives because we think we don't have enough information? What might you be unwilling to let go of in order to follow God?
2. How is God's heart for the families of the earth revealed in this covenant with Abraham?
3. Is there any situation in your life now for which you are requesting God's blessing although you are not living according to his ways?

### PRAYER

*Lord, I am no more worthy of entering a covenant relationship with you than Abraham and Sarah were. Yet just as you invaded their lives and they responded in faith, so too I enter a covenant relationship with you through faith in their distant descendant, your Son, the Lord Jesus. Help me to faithfully pass on the divine revelation to the next generation as they did. That you for their example, faith as well as faults. Amen.*