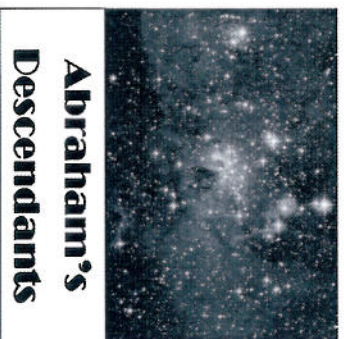


God's Story™ Our Story

September 18, 2016



Devotion: Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions. You can do this alone or with others; in the morning, during the day, or at night. Find a routine that works best for you.

Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

O God, our faith can be shaky and temperamental. Show us your steadfastness and restore our hope in you. In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

Reflect: Reflect on the key verses from Sunday's reading.

He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. Genesis 15:5-6

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

After years of no discernible fulfillment to God's promise of descendants, Abram is losing heart. What will it take to restore his faith?

Consider: Consider this theme for the week's text.

Sometimes we think we know best. But God always knows better.

Read: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday: *Abraham's Descendants*, Genesis 15:1-6

Monday: *Abraham's Sacrifice*, Genesis 22:1-19

Tuesday: *Isaac and Rebekah*, Genesis 24:1-67

Wednesday: *Jacob Steals Esau's Blessing*, Genesis 27:1-29

Thursday: *Jacob Marries Leah, then Rachel*, Genesis 29:9-30

Friday: *Jacob Wrestles an Angel*, Genesis 32:22-32

Saturday: *The Rape of Dinah*, Genesis 34:1-31

How do the people in these stories try to take matters into their own hands?

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household. Discuss the following questions, or simply check in with "Highs" and "Lows."

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

Where do you see people in your community trying to take matters into their own hands? Where do you see God acting on their behalf?

What has God promised you? How might you live and behave this week knowing that those promises are upheld?

Do: By acting on what we learn we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Go outside at night. Watch the stars. Imagine that those stars represent the people God promised to bless through Abram. Which ones shine brightest? Why?

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God bless you as abundantly as God created stars. Amen.