

## Bethel Church Community Groups :: Week of 11/20/16

### Genesis 15

1. [CONTENT] As a group read Genesis 15 together
  - a. 2 great questions to ask about any text you read are below, discuss all that you find for each and where specifically in the passage that you see it:
    - i. What do we learn about God from this passage?
    - ii. What do we learn about us (here through Abram)?
2. [CONTENT] Its notable in v1 that God doesn't say "I'll give you rewards" but "I AM your reward."
  - a. What does it mean to have GOD as the reward here for Abram?
  - b. As a group find and read Psalm 73.21-26. The Psalmist is looking around at the circumstances in the world around *him* and is also confused (like Abram in chapter 15) on how God is REALLY working there. After reading discuss the following questions:
    - i. In what ways does the Psalmist "snap out of" the confusion he feels when looking at the world around him?
    - ii. In what ways do you see God himself as his reward?
    - iii. In what ways can we do that today?
3. [MIX] Romans 4.1-5 also helps us make sense of this passage as it relates to v6. Answer this question before you read Romans 4 though:
  - a. What does it mean to "believe" anyone?
  - b. How does that parallel the "faith" or "belief" here?
  - c. Now read Romans 4.1-5:
    - i. Why are works so opposed to faith?
    - ii. What does it look like today to "believe God" and where does that "belief" even come from?
  - d. "belief" is the same thing as the "faith" talked about in Hebrews 11.1. Have someone read that aloud and discuss what that looks like today.
4. [CONTENT] Abram is clearly a "believer" here and yet has questions for God and you might even say is wrestling with some "doubt"
  - a. How does he handle that doubt here?
  - b. What things happen here that cause him to let that go?
  - c. How is this interaction with "doubts" and "the unseen" helpful for us today both for our own faith and in how we encourage others?
5. [CONTENT] The covenant ritual in vv17-21 is God swearing by himself to make good on this promise (one that extends to us today through Christ!) Close by reading Hebrews 6.13-20 as a group.
  - a. What encouragement do we get today as a result of such a great promise (based on this passage)?
6. [PRAYER] Its Thanksgiving Season! For prayer this week simply spend time as a group doing nothing but thanking God for anything you can think of (it'll be good!).