



## Lesson 6: The God Who Is Faithful

1. Have you ever been so angry at God that you've yelled out to Him, whether out loud or in your heart, asking where He is in the face of dire circumstances or tragedy?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

Write down what happened:

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2. In episode 6 of *Story Encounters: The Chosen*, Peter has a 'real' conversation with God on his fishing boat in the night. In his desperation, Peter yells out at God, demanding to know why God has repeatedly made promises to Israel—and to him—and yet seems to have forgotten them.

To watch the video scan the QR code on the right.



Have you ever felt that way? Have you ever felt forgotten by God? Have you ever felt that you have been faithful to God, yet God has not been faithful to His promise? Has this led you to ever question God or even question His existence?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

Write down what happened:

.....

3. Let's go back all the way to the beginning of time. God's perfect law of love ensured the peace and harmony of the universe. This meant that any threat of selfishness and self-centeredness had to be dealt with and eradicated. "The soul who sins shall die" (Ezekiel 18:20, NKJV). However, when Adam and Eve sinned, God had a back-up plan that existed from the creation of the earth: **God, through His Son Jesus, would essentially switch places with us. He would take our place.** Our sin would not cause us to die, but our sin would cause Him to die. He Himself would come to earth as a man, live a life of perfect love and obedience, and yet He would die the death that we deserve. Our sin severed our connection with God. But the sacrifice of Jesus would create the way or the bridge back to God so that one day we could live with Him forever!

“Early in the biblical narrative, God vows to save the human race from the inside, by means of a daring and compassionate act of solidarity. A child will be born to the human race who will undo the Fall (Genesis 3:15). The promise echoes down through the generations, and around that promise a sense of anticipation develops with all eyes fixed on the womb of womankind.”

— TY GIBSON, “THE SONSHIP OF CHRIST.”

4. That promise that Ty refers to is sometimes called covenant. In general terms a covenant is basically an agreement. Today, you might hear that word in marriage ceremonies when two parties pledge a marriage oath of faithfulness. But in ancient times, the establishment of a covenant was a much more gruesome ceremony than it is today! God's everlasting covenant was formed with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, immediately after they sinned in Genesis 3:15. That everlasting covenant is “renewed” on several occasions and is even referred to as a new covenant in the New Testament. But God's covenant to save humanity is an everlasting covenant.
5. Let's read about the covenant that God makes with the father of the Israelite nation, Abraham, in Genesis 15.

“...The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:  
“Do not be afraid, Abram.  
I am your shield,  
your very great reward.”  
But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me

*since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”*

*Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness. He also said to him, “I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.”*

GENESIS 15:1-7, NIV.

What two things does God promise Abram In this passage?

Answer: .....

6. God’s promise to Abram extended not just to physical children and land (which for a childless, landless patriarch, was already great news). This promise is a renewal of the covenant and included the Son—the promised Messiah who would one day crush the Serpent’s head (see Genesis 3:15, Galatians 3:16)—and a Heavenly City.

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*By faith Abraham...waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God...They desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”*

HEBREWS 11:8,10,16, NKJV.

7. This all probably sounded too good to be true to Abram, and he asked God for evidence that he will do what He says He will do. Let’s pick up the story again from Genesis 15.

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*But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?”*

*So the Lord said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.”*

*Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half...*

*When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. On that day **the Lord made a covenant** with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land...”*

GENESIS 15:8-10,17-18, NIV.

### **The Agreement God Made (Genesis 15:18)**

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*The Hebrew word here translated “made” is karat, which means “cut.” The word “covenant” is berith, which means “bond.” When the text says, “the Lord made a covenant with Abram,” it literally means that God cut a bond or a covenant deal with Abram. Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible explains that berith is the word for “covenant” because “it was the custom in making solemn covenants to pass between the divided parts of victims.” **The ritual of cutting an animal in two and walking between the severed pieces communicated that a person was pledging their very life to fulfill their promise.** Astonishingly, none other than God, in the form of a burning torch, walked the path between the severed pieces. God had made a promise to Abram, and now, with this ritual, He was telling the terrified man, I pledge My own life for the keeping of My promise. I am willing to **suffer***

***and die in order to follow through with My love for you and all the peoples of the earth. I am a God who keeps a covenant at any and all cost to Myself. There will be a great cutting, Abram, and it is God who will be cut.***

— TY GIBSON, “THE SONSHIP OF CHRIST.”

8. After God freed Abraham’s descendents from the bondage of Egypt, He reestablished His covenant once again with the Israelites. Let’s read about this in Exodus 19, which is right before He gave them the Ten Commandments in chapter 20.

“*And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”*

*So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. Then all the people answered together and said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do.”*

EXODUS 19:3-8, NKJV.

How successful were the children of Israel in keeping their promise to God?

- ☐ They did great!
- ☐ They failed miserably.

9. Only a few chapters later, the Israelites worshiped a golden calf (see Exodus 32)! And then throughout their history, they continued to worship false gods.

And whatever Peter had to say for himself, like Israel of old, and even humanity as a whole back to Adam and Eve, he had failed miserably at serving God faithfully all his life.

Scan the code on the right to watch a video.



“Adam—the first human “son of God” (see Luke 3:38)—failed to retain God’s image as God’s “firstborn” son. Israel was then called to bear the image of God as His “firstborn” son (“Israel is My son, My firstborn.” Exodus 4:22). But Israel also failed. **So God Himself became incarnate in order to demonstrate what it looks like to really be human as we were meant to be, bearing God’s image, or loving like God loves with covenantal faithfulness.** Thus Jesus “is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation” (Colossians 1:15). **He came as God’s new and true “firstborn” Son to reverse both Adam’s and Israel’s failures...** As our new Adam, Jesus lived, died, and rose from the dead to establish for us a new human identity, with which we identify through baptism (read Romans 6). As the Son of God in the Davidic and Adamic sense, Jesus has lifted condemnation from us so that we can be adopted as sons of God, regain God’s image, and become joint heirs with Him of the very world we lost through Adam. Occupying the position vacated by Adam, and then by Israel, Jesus is God’s new and true firstborn human Son, from whom many more sons will emerge (read Romans 8). **We, through His Sonship, regain our position as sons of God! How amazing is that!**

- ADAPTED FROM TY GIBSON, “THE SONSHIP OF CHRIST.”

10. Just like how God passed through the slain animals in Genesis 15, God pledges His life in giving us the Savior we need and the Heaven we long for.

In Peter's story, he is astonished that despite his sinfulness, Jesus faithfully gave him more than he deserved. Jesus' faithfulness is not just for Peter, but it is for us too.

And despite our unfaithfulness to God, when we come to Him and surrender ourselves fully to Him, God faithfully gives us more than we could ever measure up to and we enter into His everlasting covenant. By His merits we enter into His everlasting covenant! What great news!

How would you like to respond?

- ☐ I understand that God is faithful!
- ☐ I understand that God desires to enter into a covenant with me.
- ☐ I desire to enter into a covenant with Him.

“*See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!*

1 JOHN 3:1, NIV.