

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

ADVENT SERIES

These questions are for the **December 17, 2017** sermon, "The Beginnings of Christmas 3." Please read the sermon passage (Genesis 15:1-6) together out loud.

SERMON OUTLINE

WE HONOR GOD AT ADVENT BY BELIEVING HIM . . .

1. Exclusively (15:1)
 - a. Life has a way of producing challenges which try to "tell" us that God is not trustworthy.
 - i. God told Abram that he would produce "offspring," but Abram is still waiting!
 1. While waiting, Abram endured famine, family discord and military wars.
 2. God re-assured Abram that his promise to him was intact.
 - ii. If you can trust God for big things, trust him in the "day-to-day," too.
 1. Believe his promises.
 2. Obey his commands.
 - b. Believing God exclusively means that we consult him first, and that we scrutinize every other "truth claim" in the light of his Word.
2. Continuously (15:2-4)
 - a. It would be easy to start "counting" all the things we do not yet have from God.
 - b. Be careful when you know "what" God is doing, but you do not know how or when.
 - i. Wrong expectations of God can lead to disillusionment and disappointment.
 - ii. He has brought you safely to this point! He will bring you safely home.
 - c. Believing God continuously means that we choose to believe him at the beginning and end of every new day; every new chapter of our lives.
 - d. Abram asks God to "behold" his circumstances. God asks Abram to "behold" his Word.
3. Exhaustively (15:5-6)
 - a. God took the downcast Abram, and brought him outside to look up.
 - b. Believing God exhaustively means that we believe that "where I am right now" is a part of God's bigger plans that will come to pass as I obey. No matter what we see today.
 - c. Abram believed the LORD, and it was counted to him as righteousness.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: God accomplishes his "big" things through hourly and daily trust and obedience. Which "smaller things" are hard for you to trust God with today?
2. Based on #1, above: Abram was somewhat frustrated with God as he continued to wait on God. It would be years before God finally kept his promise. What promise of God are you holding on to today? In what way have you seen God keep the promise?
3. Based on #2, above: Abram asked God to "behold" his difficult plight. Do you ever have moments when you sit down and ask God to look at how hard your life is? God asked Abram to "behold" his Word. How does this passage encourage you?
4. Based on #3, above: God brought Abram outside to examine the stars. This helped God show Abram that even though the keeping of the promise seemed so slow, God would eventually produce great things, including "offspring" that would number like the stars. Discuss.