

FAMILY PRACTICE

Home Lessons From Scripture

Genesis 15:1-6

Lesson One: Fear not!

After things had settled down for Abram after the remarkable events of Chapter 14, Abram may have been sitting around wondering if he had done a wise thing. He had made enemies of the powerful kings from Mesopotamia, who could always return with a larger army. He had also made enemies of the local kings from the Dead Sea, for he had called basically told them that they were so wicked that he wanted nothing to do with them.

This didn't leave Abram with too many friends, and since he and his family didn't live in a city with strong walls, but lived instead in tents pitched out in the open, he may have felt unsafe and a bit afraid. So God came to Abram and told him not to be afraid, because God was his shield. This meant that God would protect Abram until all that God had for Abram to do had been accomplished, and no one was stronger than God! It also meant that Abram was never alone, for God was always there to watch over him.

❖ Here are some hints and questions that might help your study:

- Have you ever been afraid?
- Have you ever been afraid because you were by yourself?
- Have you ever been in danger and had someone come to your rescue?
- When you're scared, is it good to have someone with you?
- Do you think God is with you?
- Is God able to protect you?

❖ Here are some Scriptures that might help your study:

- 1 Samuel 17:34-37 (David speaking to Saul before fighting Goliath)
- Daniel 3 (the fiery furnace)
- Daniel 6 (the lion's den)
- Acts 5:17-20 (apostles freed from prison by an angel)
- Deuteronomy 31:6

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Lesson Two: What is righteousness?

In today's passage we see the term *righteousness* for the first time. What a big word that is! But, fear not (just like Abram), because it's not hard to understand, and it's also really important that we all know what it means. So let's tear apart this word to see if that helps us understand it!

We all know what right is – it's the opposite of wrong!

The part of the word that's spelled eous is just a fancy spelling of ous, which means "full of."

And the ness part of the word just means "in the condition of."

So when we put it all together, righteousness just means being full of right. Isn't that better than being full of wrong? I think so! This means that because Abram believed God's word, God saw Abram as being full of right (there was nothing wrong with him), and meant that Abram could be accepted by God. How awesome is that! When we believe in Jesus and He forgives our sin, we get to be righteous in God's eyes too, and this is the only way to be made acceptable to God.

❖ Here are some hints and questions that might help your study:

- Have you ever done something wrong or bad?
- Does God know when you do things wrong or bad?
- Do you ever think things that are wrong or bad?
- Do you think that God sees you as righteous (full of right)?
- What can we do so that God sees us as righteous?

❖ Here are some Scriptures that might help your study:

- Romans 5:19
- Romans 4:11,12