

Our hope is that you were challenged by Sunday's message and would desire to take the study a little deeper. Whether for personal study, family study, or for a Home Group gathering, use this study to go deeper.

### Open

**October 22, 2017**

Watching a person progress in his/her faith is not always easy. We are rarely patient enough to see someone encounter adversity and fail repeatedly. Fortunately, in Abram's (Abraham) case, he was becoming familiar with the One true God who is eternally patient. So patient is this God that He would even make a one-sided promise, now-and-forever bound to this flawed wanderer.

While there are a couple exceptions, most ancient agreements required participation from both parties. Abram probably recognized the makings of a covenant ceremony. He must have thought, "Here we go!" However, shortly after he was *lights-out*, as they say. This was a monumental failure... right?

### Main Point

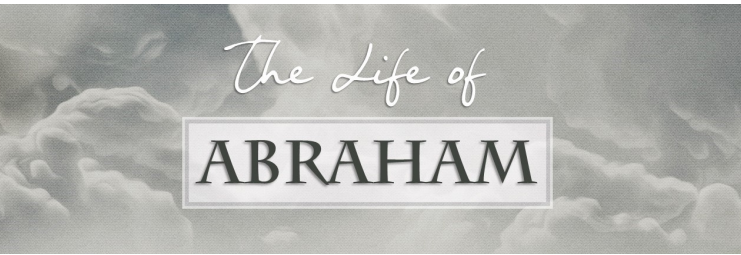
While this was actually NOT a setback for Abram, it could be interpreted as one. As a result, this story becomes the precursor to the one-sided promise that would be perfectly displayed in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

### Read

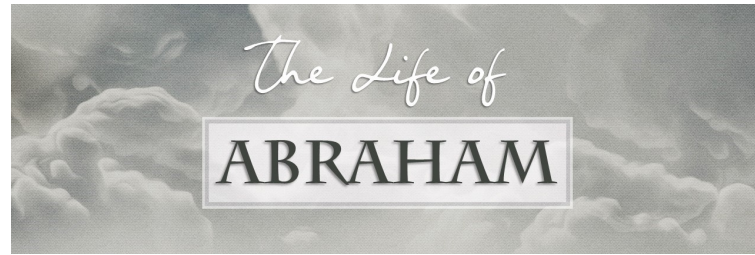
Genesis 15 [Genesis 11.31-32];

### Discuss

- Is the order of "belief, then proof" convincing here? What does the order say about God and Abram's growing relationship?
- Elements of the original promise (chap. 12) reappear in this story.
- Abram probably understood covenant preparations (v. 9). And for him, it would have been an acceptable demonstration of "proof." How does this explain his behavior in vs. 10-11?
- On the other hand, other people still inhabited the land. Why is this not a discouragement to Abram? In what would you hope?
- Abram lies to protect himself. God takes corrective action. Explain the meaning of that at this point Abram's journey.
- How do you handle it when God leaves out certain details in His plan for your life? Is following Him still enough motivation by itself?



**Sermon Notes**  
**October 22, 2017**



**Sermon Notes**  
**October 22, 2017**