

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Fear // Fear of the Future

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Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What was/ is your favorite futuristic show, movie, or book?

Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

Outline:

- I. Fear of the Future (v. 1-3)
 - a. Abram shows us exactly why it's so easy to fear the future: we can't control it. His circumstances made it hard for him to see how God's promises could happen
 - b. The unknown of the future forces us to face the reality that there are many things we can't control, and we need God's help to not let that fact control *us*
Q: *How can Abram be a source of comfort for us amidst this type of fear?*
- II. Promise FOR the Future (v.4-6)
 - a. God doesn't respond to Abram's fear with chastisement, but shows him the stars and reminds him of how to see past this fear: Have faith
 - b. At the end of the day we have to put our trust in something, and instead of forcing blind faith on us, God reveals his character and activities to root us in firm faith
Q: *Why did God make Abram look at the stars for this reminder?*
- III. Confidence of the Covenant (Gen. 15:17-18)
 - a. Later on in this chapter, God makes a traditional covenant unique with Abram. God was the weaker party to show that no matter what He will hold up his end of the promise
 - b. Jesus is proof of the lengths that God will go to for us, and through that we can trust that there is no danger in the future He has planned for us
Q: *What ways does this covenant change or improve our faith?*

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) What aspects of the future scare you the most?
- 2) How has this fear shaped decisions you've made?
- 3) How does this portion of scripture show us that fear is natural but only resolved by God?
- 4) What personal fulfilled promises can you hold to when facing fear of your future?
- 5) What does walking in confident faith look like in your life?

Suggestions for further study:

- Romans 8:38-39 **Q: *What assurance do these verses provide?***
- Matthew 6:25-30 **Q: *How does our created form prove God's provision?***

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, in the face of uncertainties and the chaos of life, there's great reason for fear. We recognize how small we are and how little we can control. You have shown up in the midst of all this and invited us to put our trust in you. You have done so by sealing our future with you when you sent Jesus to die and rise for us. May we find our hope and confidence in that promise, and live each day knowing you will come to find us and raise us up to live with you in your perfect kingdom. In your holy name we pray, Amen.