



GOSPEL COMMUNITIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Review Gospel Appointment documents and distribute people to follow-up with from planning center.**
- 2. Volunteering** — You can make a difference in the lives of others by sharing your gifts and talents here at Soma. Each week volunteers minister to others with the love and hope of Jesus Christ. Whatever your interests are, there is a place for you to serve with Soma's Volunteer Ministries.
 - SomaKids
 - Setup and Teardown
 - WhizKids
 - First Impressions
 - Audio/ Visual
 - Music
- 3. Planning Center** — **PLEASE** setup your Planning Center account ASAP so we can best communicate with and honor you as our volunteers. Go to planningcenteronline.com, connect to our church, and sign up for text alerts.
- 4. Covenant Membership** - Church membership is a covenant relationship. We're accountable to God & one another. Worship attendance, service, communion, the ministry of the Word, submission to elders, & holiness aren't arbitrary requirements of membership but mandatory commands of Jesus. If you want to join Soma come to our class!
- 2pm; Sunday July 14th!
- 5. Baptism** - Baptism is a clear command of the Lord Jesus Christ for all believers. This is why it is one of the ordinances of the Christian Church (the Lord's Supper being the other). Believer baptism in water reflects a prior inward cleansing (1 Pet. 3:21) when the person was born again (Jn. 3:3, 5), made a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17), and offers an opportunity for this new believer to profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ publicly. If you want to be baptized please go to somajc.org/membership/baptism/
- Sunday August 18th during the Sunday gathering

QUESTIONS

Abram is just coming off of a huge victory over some of the most powerful kings in the region. He has rescued his nephew Lot and returned the people and possessions of Sodom to their king. All should be good for Abram, but in Genesis Chapter 15, we find Abram in a bit of despair.

Read Genesis 15: 1-21.

Questions:

1. In Genesis 15 verse 1 God tells Abram “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield”. A shield is a weapon used in war. What would Abram be afraid of and why would Abram need a tool of war?
2. How is this statement to Abram in Genesis Chapter 15 verse 1 consistent with what God has been promising Abram ever since He told him to leave his country and go to the promised land? Read Genesis 12 verses 1-3 to compare with what God has told Abram here in Genesis 15.
3. In Abram’s conversation with God in Genesis 15 verses 2-3, he gives us insight into what is perhaps the greatest fear or concern he, Abram, has?
4. What comfort should we be able to take away from Abram’s dialogue with God here in these two verses (Genesis 15:2-3)?
5. In Genesis 15 verses 4 through 7, how does God show his love to Abram?
6. How does the two promises God made to Abram in Genesis 15 verses 4-7 compare to the promises we have as Christians?

Read Romans 8: 16-17

7. Genesis 15:6 tells us that Abram believed by faith what the Lord had promised to him and it even says the Lord counted it to him as righteousness. Yet only two verses later in verse 8, Abram says “O Lord God how am I to know that I shall possess it?” Is Abram’s faith already failing? What is going on here?
8. What was the result of Abram asking “O Lord God how am I to know that I shall possess it? Did God get mad at him? Rebuke him? Change His mind about giving Abram the land?
9. In Genesis 15: 12-16, God lays out a huge revelation, what is it?
10. Genesis 15:9-10 describe the common day practice of how a covenant was made between two people. The two parties would cut an animal or animals in half and

then walk between the two halves of the animals. This would usually result in the blood of the animals getting on their feet or the lower part of their coats and would signify what would happen to either of the two parties if they broke the covenant with the other.

Genesis 15: 17 says that when the sun went down a smoking pot and a flaming torch passed between the halves of the animals. The smoking pot and the flaming torch are both symbolic of God. Abram did not pass between the animals. God was the only party to the covenant that passed between the animals. Why does that fact make this a very special covenant?

11. Why didn't God just let Abram have the land of Canaan at that very moment?
12. How are those circumstances, from question 11, similar to the circumstances we find ourselves in as Christians today?
13. Based on God's consistency with Abram and His promises to him, what can we know about God's nature and His word?