

Abraham — What Does the Bible Mean When It Calls Abraham Faithful?

Study Companion

Genesis 12-25 | People of the Bible

Use this beside your Bible. Read first. Observe before explaining. Keep TEXT separate from INFERENCE, especially when later Scripture interprets Abraham’s story.

PEOPLE-STUDY METHOD

READ THE STORY → FOLLOW THE PERSON → NOTICE THE TENSION → TRACK GOD’S WORDS → COMPARE LATER SCRIPTURE → TEST OUR ASSUMPTIONS → RESPOND

1. Before “Father Abraham”

Read Genesis 11:27–12:9. What facts do you learn about Abram, Sarai, and their family before the call?

List the commands and promises in Genesis 12:1–3.

What does Abram do before any of those promises are fully visible?

2. Faith and Fear in Egypt

Read Genesis 12:10–20. What problem does Abram face?

What does he fear will happen?

Who intervenes to protect Sarai?

What does this scene prevent you from claiming about a “faithful” person?

3. Follow the Promise

Passage	Promise / command	Abraham’s response	What remains unresolved?
Genesis 12:1–9	-----	-----	-----
Genesis 15:1–6	-----	-----	-----
Genesis 17:1–27	-----	-----	-----

4. Genesis 15:6 — Slow Down

What does Abram ask in Genesis 15:1–3?

What does Yehovah promise in verses 4–5?

What is the object of Abram’s trust in verse 6?

GRAMMAR NOTE

The Hebrew does not explicitly name the subject of “reckoned.” Record what your translation does with the sentence, then compare another translation.

Translation 1: _____

Translation 2: _____

What theological claim can you make from the context without depending on the pronoun ambiguity?

5. Faith Does Not Erase Failure

Read Genesis 16. What human plan follows immediately after Genesis 15:6?

Compare Genesis 12:10–20 and Genesis 20:1–18. What fear pattern repeats?

How does the Abraham narrative itself distinguish faithfulness from flawlessness?

6. Obedience Takes Shape

Genesis 17: What commands does Abraham obey immediately?

Genesis 18: What does Yehovah say Abraham’s household should learn to do?

Genesis 22: List Abraham’s actions before explaining his motives.

What does Genesis 22:18 say about Abraham’s response to Yehovah’s voice?

7. Genesis 26:5

Copy or summarize the four categories used in Genesis 26:5.

TEXT: Does the verse identify the specific commands in each category?

INFERENCE: What conclusions might someone draw that the verse itself does not enumerate?

8. Paul, Hebrews, and James Read Abraham

Later text	Genesis scene used	Question being answered	Emphasis
Romans 4	Gen. 15:6 / before circumcision	-----	-----
Galatians 3	Gen. 15:6 / blessing nations	-----	-----
Hebrews 11	Gen. 12; 21–22	-----	-----
James 2	Gen. 15:6 + 22	-----	-----

What does Paul reject when he uses Abraham?

What does James reject when he uses Abraham?

Where do both writers depend on the same Abraham story?

9. TEXT / INFERENCE

TEXT	INFERENCE / QUESTION

10. Coffee Reflection

Which Abraham scene most complicates your previous definition of faith?

Where in your own life are you trusting a promise while still waiting to see how it will work?

What would embodied trust look like in that situation—not as payment to God, but as a response to Him?

My Conclusion

After reading the whole story, I would describe Abraham's faithfulness as:

The strongest evidence for that conclusion is:

One question I still have is:

Passages to Revisit

Genesis 12 • Genesis 15 • Genesis 17–18 • Genesis 20–22 • Genesis 26:1–5 • Romans 4 • Galatians 3:6–9 • Hebrews 11:8–19 • James 2:14–26