

SERMON GUIDE

TRUE CONFIDENCE AND THE BLAZING TORCH

Genesis 15:1-21

Pastor | Tim Kurtz

March 16, 2025

Faith Community Church | fcchudson.com

Helping people live a gospel inspired life.

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SERMON NOTES

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OUR MISSION is to make more and better disciples of Jesus Christ.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE (Year 1, Week 12)

Phil. 4:8 (Anxiety)

6Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH

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The Conversation Guide is a great tool for individuals, families, discipleship groups and Missional Communities to take a deeper, more personal dive into the content of the current sermon series. The Conversation Guide will be posted by every Friday on the 'live' page of our website and in our weekly newsletter. We encourage you to use it this week on your own, around your dinner tables, over coffee with your friends or in your faith groups!

The Conversation Guide is built on the SOAP model, which is a tool you can use when reading the Bible. SOAP helps you be intentional about paying attention to:

- S**cripture that stands out to you while you read
- O**bservations about the verse or phrases that stood out to you
- A**pplication that connect the verses to your real life and relationships
- P**rayer that invites God to participate in your life and provide power to follow him

Conversation Questions

Getting to Know Me: Does trust come easily to you, or is it hard for you to believe people?

Notes on the Reading: The reading today, and especially Genesis 15:6 is a pillar in the New Testament's understanding of how faith makes righteousness possible. The following passages are worth reading if you're unfamiliar with them: Romans 4; Galatians 3:1-9.

Also in the reading today, you're going to observe a strange ceremony (15:9-11). As far as we can tell, splitting animals in two and walking between the pieces was a way of sealing a covenant between two covenant partners. By walking between the pieces, the covenant partners were saying, "Let me be cut in two like these animals if I fail to do what I've promised to do."

Read Genesis Genesis 15:1-21

- S** What do you love most about what you just read? What verses, phrases, or words stand out to you as you read these scriptures? Is anything jumping off the page and affecting your spirit?
- O** Abraham's faith is struggling once again (v.1-3). In response, God gives him a sign – he points to the stars and reiterates his promise: "So shall your offspring be." Then it says, "[Abraham] believed the LORD..." (v.6).
 - In your own words, what is "faith"? How is it different than intellectual agreement or acknowledging a set of facts?
 - Why do you think faith is all that God requires to give to us his own righteousness? (see Romans 4.)
- O** Abraham is struggling to believe another promise (v.8). In response, God invites him to participate in a dramatic covenant-creating ceremony (v.9-21).
 - Why do you think it's significant that only the LORD passes between the pieces of the animals, but not Abraham (v.17)?
 - What is the LORD saying about his faithfulness and how the covenant will work? How would knowing this have increased Abraham's confidence?
 - How does this ceremony foreshadow the death of Jesus?
- A** If God had written this passage just for you, what words, phrases or ideas would he have underlined specifically for you? What did you need to hear most? Why?
- A** Abraham expressed doubts in the promises of God and asked for reassurance (v.2,8). Are there any promises that God has made to you that you're struggling to trust right now? How might God's responses to Abraham help you to respond in faith this week?
- P** Talk to God about your application responses above. Ask him to speak to you, help you, forgive you, and provide direction that you need.