

for Sept 15

Outlandish Promises **Genesis 15:1-6**

We have a term, “Hedge your bets.” This term means that we must have a contingency if our plans do not work out the way we would like. God does not hedge his bets. Instead of couching his promises in “if’s” and “probably’s,” God makes his promises in the most outlandish of promises.

This week we take up God’s outlandish promise to Abram in Genesis 15. It was not a promise couched in my grandmother’s favorite, “If the creek don’t rise,” but it was the biggest comparison in the mind of Abraham, the same number as the stars in the sky. And God made sure that Abram understood that God was the only one responsible in fulfilling the promise, “since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself.”

When we face the promises of God in the light of so many “realities” of our world, we are tempted to give up. That’s why God tells Abram to “fear not.” When we see that term in the Bible, we are about to be told good news. Bad news comes after “woe unto you.”

Don’t give up on the promises of God. We have a God that delights in making outlandish promises to his people. Abram, later renamed Abraham, confronted what he only saw as a hopeless situation, embraced God’s promise, and the Lord counted his faith in the promises as righteousness.

Pastor Greg



Daily Scripture Reading Week 3

9/15/2024	Sunday	Genesis 15:1-6	God's Promise to Abram
9/16/2024	Monday	Genesis 17:1-8	God Changes Abram's Name
9/17/2024	Tuesday	Genesis 18:1-15	A Son Promised to Abraham and Sarah
9/18/2024	Wednesday	Genesis 21:1-7	The Birth of Isaac
9/19/2024	Thursday	Genesis 22:1-14	The Command to Sacrifice Isaac
9/20/2024	Friday	Genesis 27:1-17, 30-38	Isaac Blesses Jacob
9/21/2024	Saturday	Genesis 35:9-15	God's Promise Passed to Jacob

Daily Prayer Journal

St. Ignatius of Loyola had a practice in his prayer life called the “Daily Examen.” It was a spiritual exercise that would allow him to reflect on his life, God’s provisions and opportunities, and how Ignatius rose to the occasion of God’s opportunities.

In your daily journal time, review this Examen and note each day responses to it. You do not have to do each question in a response, but what strikes you about this day.

Daily Examen

Thanksgiving:

What am I especially grateful for in the past day?

The gift of another day?

The love and support I have received?

The courage I have mustered?

An event that took place today?

Petition:

I am about to review my day; I ask for the light to know God and to know myself as God sees me.

Review:

Where have I felt true joy today?

What has troubled me today?

What has challenged me today?

Where and when did I pause today?

Have I noticed God's presence in any of this?

Response:

In light of my review, what is my response to the God of my life?

A Look Ahead

As I look ahead, what comes to mind?

With what spirit do I want to enter tomorrow?