

TEEN TALK: ABRAHAM IS UNSELFISH; Theme: LESSONS FROM ABRAHAM

MEMORY VERSE: Isaiah 12:2; Surely God is my Salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my Salvation.

Genesis 13: and Genesis 15:

Abram's nephew, LOT, traveled with him to the land God promised to give to Abram. Abram and Lot both became very rich. Each owned many cows, goats and sheep. After a while there was not enough pasture for both of their flocks to graze. Then the men who took care of Lot's animals began to fight and argue with the men who took care of Abram's animals. "Let's not have any fighting among us," Abram said to Lot. So they divided the land between them. Abram told Lot to choose the land he wanted and Lot chose the best land where it was well watered and had plenty of grazing pastureland.

Do you think this was fair? Abram might have insisted on "first choice." After all it was he who had brought Lot with him. But Abram was not a selfish man and he trusted God to look after him.

After this, the Lord said to Abram, "Look around you in all directions, as far as you can see. All the land that you can see, I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make you offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted."

Then God told Abram to walk around all the land that God would give him. (refer to map of Abraham's time. Find Ur where he began, then Haran where God called him and note the land of Canaan.)

At this time, Abram still had no children. He had to trust that God would do what he promised. That God would give him not only the land but also many children. He had to "Believe" God.

Have you ever had someone make you a promise that seemed impossible?

Have you ever had someone make you a promise that you needed to wait a long time for?

Did you get tired of waiting and did you give up on believing that the person would keep their promise?

Did you trust the person enough to wait a long time for the promise?

Abram had opportunity to doubt God's word and he questioned God.

Abram reminded God that he had no children. God told him to look at the stars and see if he could count them. God said that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars.

Abram believed God and trusted Him.

Then God again promised to give Abram and his descendants the land where God had brought him, although they would need to wait for many years.

God told Abram that his people would be enslaved in another land for four hundred years before they would come back to this land. (It was 400 years that the children of Israel were slaves in Egypt.)

When you read the story of Moses, you will see that God kept His promise to Abram. (The descendants of Abraham go back to the land of Canaan.)

If God kept His promise to Abram, do you think that God will keep His promises to you?

Can you trust Him?