

# FAITH THAT *BLESSES*

GENESIS 14:1-24

Sunday, September 29, 2024 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

*The Backstory...* Genesis 13

⬆️ Trusting God by acting in **FAITH** (14:13-15)

**past failures do not define you** 12:10-20; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 8:1; Phil. 3:13-14; Psalm 103:12

**your faithfulness (and faithlessness) affects others** Hebrews 10:24-25; Phil. 1:14

brings **BLESSING** (14:16-24)

**a blessing from God & others** 14:16; 19-20

↔️ **a blessing to God & others** 14:20b, 22-24; Psalm 103

in **SURPRISING** ways and places. (Hebrews 7)

**Melchizedek's surprising blessing** 14:19-20

**Christ's surprising love** Hebrews 7:22-25; 11:6; 4:14-16; Romans 5:8; Eph. 2:4-5; John 15:13



Text us at **833-271-8805**.  
— Text **APP** to get our app.

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "**Pray for...**" followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.



BIBLICAL **FAITH** IS...

**believing** God's Word

and **acting** upon it

**no matter** how I feel

because **God promises** a good result.

(—and he keeps all his promises!)



## Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

**What is this?** — Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

### Welcome to Life Group!

#### Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, here's a *random* question to discuss and break the ice as you get going. Have everyone answer:

*What's the weirdest food combination you've ever tried and secretly enjoyed?*

### Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

**Use this guide for further personal and group study this week.** For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

- As believers, our walk with God should visibly impact others. Abram's faith in Genesis 14 challenges us: Is our faith noticeable, and does it testify to God's work in our lives? **With this in mind, read Genesis 14:1–16.**
- Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you? Discuss it with your group before moving on.*
- One theme we see in Abraham's life is that our actions (including our faith and/or lack of) affects others, not just us. Pastor Josh mentioned the context of Genesis 14 that takes place in chapter 13. **Read Genesis 13:1–13.** Then discuss the following questions:
  - How did Lot's decision negatively affect him? Who else would it affect? How?
  - How did Abram's actions in Gen. 14 differ from his actions in Gen. 12:10–20?
- Unlike in Genesis 12:10–20, Abram acted courageously in Genesis 14, trusting God's promise to make him a great nation would guarantee him success in defeating kings and emperors as he went to rescue Lot. In light of this, discuss the following questions:
  - Think of a situation that required you to act in faith. How did you respond?
  - How could you see God's hand in your decisions?
- As Abram returned from miraculously defeating the Mesopotamian kings, he was met by the king of Sodom and Melchizedek, the king of Salem (often associated with Jerusalem). Compare these two kings' reactions to Abram.

# WELCOME TO WAWASEE!

**OUR OUTCOMES** This is who we hope you grow to *become* at Wawasee Bible...

*If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...*

- 1 | **Receiving From God.** Am I reading the Word regularly? When am I gathering to hear the Word taught? What fruit of the Spirit do I see growing in my life?
- 2 | **Responding To God.** How am I talking to and listening to God regularly? What are some healthy spiritual habits I'm working on (things like giving, scripture memory, repentance, rest, etc.)?
- 3 | **Receiving From Others.** Where and how am I in community/friendship with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?
- 4 | **Moving Toward Others.** How and where am I contributing to and initiating community with other Christians in our church? (Or am I only consuming?)
- 5 | **Going to those Far from God.** How am I regularly going toward those who are far from God—loving them, sharing God's Story and my own story? When was the last time I shared God's story and/or my faith story? Who is on my PEARL list?

## WORD FIND IN THE WORD

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

### Word Find: Hebrews 7:22-25 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

<sup>22</sup> This **makes Jesus** the **guarantor** of a **better covenant**. <sup>23</sup> The **former priests** were **many** in **number**, **because** they were **prevented** by **death** from **continuing** in **office**,<sup>24</sup>

but he **holds** his **priesthood** **permanently**, **because** he **continues forever**.<sup>25</sup> **Consequently**, he is **able** to save to the uttermost those who **draw** near to God through him, since he **always lives to make intercession** for them.

S P R I E S T S J E S U S  
 J R S C W O F F I C E J F  
 D E C O V E N A N T A Y O  
 P V U N A I H N U M B E R  
 R E B S I V B L I V E S M  
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## life groups Study Guide (continued)

- How did Melchizedek bless Abram?
  - In what ways did the king of Sodom curse Abram?
  - How did Abram respond to these two kings?.
6. Pastor Josh mentioned that Melchizedek's blessing marks the start of God fulfilling his promise to Abram (Gen. 14:19–20), showing Abram's name becoming great (Gen. 12:2–3). Abram's tithe to Melchizedek also illustrated God's promise, "I will bless those who bless you" (Gen. 12:3).
    - How does your faith affect those around you?
    - Would you consider yourself a "blessing" to others? ***What's a faith-filled risk you need to take to be a greater blessing to others?***
  7. **Read Hebrews 7.** Discuss how the author uses the priesthood of Melchizedek to point to the superiority of Christ's priesthood.
    - How does Christ's priesthood compare with the Levitical priesthood?
    - How should Christ's "once for all" (Heb 7:27) sacrifice affect how we live?

### Taking It Home

8. As Christ's followers, we aim to reflect God's work in our lives, though we may feel hesitant due to past failures. Yet, Abram's story shows God can use us despite our weaknesses (see **1 Cor. 1:26–31**), like Paul, we can trust Jesus's grace is enough, with his power shining through our weakness (2 Cor. 12:9).
  - **Read 1 Corinthians 1:26–31 and 2 Cor. 12:9–10.** How does Paul describe our weakness compared to God's strength? How does this encourage you to rely on the Lord?
  - How can you show God's love to others by living faithfully?
  - How does putting to death "what is earthly" and putting on a new being affect how you relate to others (see **Col 3:5–17**)?

### Prayer

*As you close, take time to pray for each other. Divide into separate groups of men and women. Feel free to share requests, just be sure each person gets prayed for.*

This week's Study Guide is adapted in part from Grigoni, Michael R., et al. Abraham: Following God's Promise. Lexham Press, 2012.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at [wawaseebible.com/beliefs](http://wawaseebible.com/beliefs). Learn more about the EFCA at [efca.org](http://efca.org).

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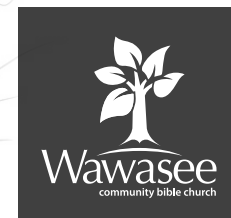
# JOURNEY UNCHARTED

Sunday, September 29, 2024

PART 3

FAITH THAT BLESSES

GENESIS 14:1-24



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<https://wawasee.today>