

“Reversing the Curse”

New Day Church

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Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-21; 17:1-14

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

Message Summary

Last week the New Day Church family began reading through the bible chronologically. We saw the beauty of God’s creative work in Genesis 1-2. However, we also saw the tragic reality that Adam and Eve, the crescendo of God’s creative masterpiece, turned their backs on God. They chose to worship the creation rather than the Creator. As a result, God brought justice upon His creation (Genesis 3:14-19); God cursed the serpent, Adam, and Eve. The serpent not only was cursed to crawl on his belly and eat dust all his life, but God would put enmity between his offspring and the woman’s offspring. As a result, the offspring of the woman would have victory over the offspring of the serpent. As you may know, the serpent is Satan personified. God promised He would have victory over Satan through the Offspring of the woman. The second curse was directed toward the woman, Eve. God said there would be conflict between man and woman. Eve would have pain in childbirth and there would be strife between her and her husband. The third curse was directed at the man, Adam. In this curse God cursed the ground and said not only would it be difficult to bear food but Adam would return to the ground at death.

In the first week of reading we discovered that these 3 curses began to play out. Cain killed his brother Abel, conflict between offspring (Gen. 4:25, John 8:44, 1 John 3:12). Sarah was barren, difficulty in childbearing (Gen. 11:30). The cursed ground tragically received the blood of Abel (Gen. 4:11) and God cursed the ground during the flood, resulting in the death of everything on dry ground (Gen. 7:22); both of which are the outworking of the land curse. God owed nothing to His creation but judgment. And we see the results of that judgment in the first 11 chapters of Genesis. However, we see God’s mercy too. God gave Eve another son (Gen 4:25). Enoch didn’t die (Gen 5:24). And Noah was saved (Gen. 6:8).

God’s mercy would be meaningless apart from His justice. Therefore, chapter 12 begins the picture of God’s mercy in the midst of justice. We see a turning point early in the story where God sets out to shower His creation with His glory through His justice and mercy. Chapter 12 is a new beginning where God sets out to reverse the curse. This is the story of Abraham. As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week, think about how this story points us to the ultimate fulfillment of God’s Redemption in Christ. How does God’s promises compare to His promises in Christ? How does Abraham’s faith compare to our faith in Christ? Prepare to worship Jesus together as you think deeply on His loving grace in your life and how He reversed the curse!

Message Outline

God promised Abraham...

- A permanent Place.
- A covenant People.
- A global Purpose.

Abraham’s faith...

- Was the result of God’s grace.
- Was him trusting God’s...
 - Provision.
 - Protection.
 - Presence.
 - Promise.
- Resulted in obedience to God.

God’s promise in Christ...

- An eternal home.
- A New Covenant people.
- A purpose of praise.

As followers of Christ let’s...

- Rest in God’s grace.
- Trust in Christ’s...
 - Cross.
 - Power.
 - Spirit.
 - Reward.
- Obey His Word.
- Live to worship Him forever.

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Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-21; 17:1-14:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (God’s Identity; Theology)
2. What does this passage teach about what God has done? (God’s Action; Christology)
3. What does this passage teach about man/me? (Old & New Creation Identity; Ecclesiology)
4. What does this passage teach about what I should do? (Reveals what I really believe about Questions 1-3; Missional Ecclesiology)
5. What does this passage teach about how I do it uniquely in my context? (personal action steps of obedience)

Weekly Prayer Focus

• Church:

- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray for Missional Communities to multiply into new neighborhoods.
- Pray for new DNA groups to start.
- _____
- _____
- _____

• Local:

- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.
- _____
- _____
- _____

• Global:

- Pray for J & A and their children as they prepare for the mission field.
- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.
- Pray for the work of Paul & Sarah Young and Dakota Baptist Church in North Dakota.
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