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# ABOUT THE STUDY

The intent of this study is to provide participants with a high level overview of the Bible, by tracing the key historical events, themes, and what role they play in redemptive history.

Our prayer for you is that His story becomes alive in your heart.

**Each week the study has 3 components:**

1. Scripture reading & questions (Some questions are marked, “★ **For a Deeper Dive.**” These are meant to highlight events and promises of God which will be fulfilled as HlStory unfolds.)
2. Summary reading – A brief commentary on where we are in HlStory (Summaries are all excerpts from HlStory in 30 Days: Genesis to Revelation with Daily Devotionals, Carole O. Schryber, WestBow Press, 2017)
3. Personal application questions

# ABOUT THE AUTHORS

## Carole O. Schryber

Carole Schryber is a wife and mother of three grown children. She was an attorney in New York who gave up the practice of law to devote herself to studying and teaching Scripture. She has used her research and analytical skills from the study of law for inductive Bible study.

For the past fifteen years she has been a Christian teacher, speaker and writer. Her talk, Genesis to Revelation in 60 Minutes, was the impetus for a devotional book she authored, *HIStory in 30 Days: Genesis to Revelation*. In addition to speaking and teaching at her home church of McLean Bible and other area churches, she was the former Associate Teaching Director of Community Bible Study in McLean, Virginia, which serves more than four hundred women weekly.

## Natalie Walkley

Natalie Walkley is a wife, mother, and lover of good stories. She works full time in marketing, helping brands tell their story effectively to drive top-line growth. Natalie fell in love with God's Word through the inductive Bible study approach and realizing that the "ah-ha" moments with Scripture are not reserved just for pastors and theologians.

After starting her career in a year-long ministry development program at McLean Bible Church she has since been writing and leading Bible studies for the past decade. She currently leads a women's group study at her home church, The Village Chapel, where she focuses on inspiring a passion for Scripture, and empowering others to garner God's timeless truths for themselves through inductive study. Natalie and her husband, Matt, live in Nashville, Tennessee with their daughter.

# WEEK 5:

## Abraham is Chosen

*“And he [Abraham] believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.”*

GENESIS 15:6

(Note: this week has quite a bit more Scripture to read through. To make it easier to follow, we have broken up the questions with the passages relevant to them. However you may want to block off a bit more time to complete this week’s study.)

Scripture: Read Genesis 11:27–13:18

1. Where did Abram’s journey begin? Where did God direct him to go? (For additional insight see Act 7:2-3.)

What does the journey tell you about how Abram first trusted God?

2. Genesis 12:1-3, 12:7-8, 13:14-18, 15:7-18 contain what is known as the Abrahamic Covenant. Describe the 3 three major parts of the covenant in the chart below.

COVENANT PROMISE	DETAILS
Land	
People	
Blessing	

[Author’s Note: The Abrahamic covenant is known as a unilateral covenant. Generally, when two parties were forming a covenant, they would pass through the two parts of the animal sacrifice to seal the agreement. However, Genesis 15 describes how God alone passed through and sealed the covenant showing that He would be the one to fulfill it; the promise was not contingent on Abram’s obedience.]

★ **For a Deeper Dive:** Who is the “blessing” foreshadowing? See Galatians 3:14.

## Week 5: Abraham is Chosen

3. Why would this covenant have been personally pleasing to Abram? (Consider the size of his family at the time. See Genesis 11:30.)

4. Referring to Genesis 11:27–12:10, describe Abram's journey. Where did they travel?

What did Abram do to honor God along the journey?

5. The Promised Land had no large rivers or source for water. Anyone living in this area would have to be dependant on rain and God's provisions. Read the account of Abram in Genesis 12:10–20. What does this passage tell you about Abram's early walk of faith?

Do you think it was God's desire for Abram to go to Egypt? List all the things that Abram could have learned about God during this time of his life.

**Scripture:** Read Genesis 17; Genesis 21:1–7.

6. Read Genesis 17:15–19. What did God clarify to Abram about the promised heir?

## Week 5: Abraham is Chosen

7. Genesis 15:6 says that Abram “believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness.” Practically speaking, what is the difference between believing there is a god and believing God?

8. What did God require of Abram as a “sign” of the covenant? Read Genesis 17:9–14.

Define the word “sign” using a concordance.

What is the difference between a condition of a covenant and a sign of a covenant?

9. Abram (who God renamed Abraham) and Sarai (who God renamed Sarah) had to wait many years for the birth of their son; Abram was 75 when the covenant was made, and 100 when their son, Isaac was born. What does this waiting period tell us about God and God’s timeline?

## Scripture: Read Genesis 22.

10. What was the test that God gave to Abraham?



**Week 5: Abraham is Chosen**

11. How did Abraham demonstrate his faith in the Lord?

12. What did God say was the reason “to not lay a hand on the boy”?

13. How did God demonstrate His faithfulness?

14. What have you learned so far about the Lord’s requirement of a blood sacrifice for the atonement of sin? Describe the occurrences where you have seen it up to this point in Scripture.

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT	SCRIPTURE	DESCRIPTION
Adam & Eve	Gen 3:21	
Noah	Gen 8:20	

15. By preserving the life of Isaac, how was the promise in Genesis 3:15 preserved?

16. God reaffirmed His covenant in Genesis 22:17-18. What do you know so far about God’s plan to redeem the world? See Galatians 3:16.

# SUMMARY WEEK 5

## HiStory continues...

During the many years that followed, the population grew. God hadn't forgotten His promise that one from the offspring of Eve would destroy Satan. How would this one be identified? There were, after all, a lot of people born from Eve's lineage. God would want this Savior to be recognized. So God selected one man, Abraham, from Eve's lineage. It would be through Abraham that we could trace the offspring going forward.

He was a man with nothing, and yet it would be through him that God would expand the promise to send a Savior. Abraham was a nomad living in the land of Ur when God called him to leave his homeland and travel to a place that God would show him. Abraham obeyed, and God made a covenant with Abraham that had several components:

1. A promise of a **people**: Abraham would be the father of a great nation.
2. A promise of a **land**: Abraham was promised the land upon which Abraham was standing—the Promised Land. It would belong one day to His, to God's, chosen people. (God planned this as a foreshadowing of a future place for God's people.)
3. A promise of a **blessing**: Through Abraham the nations of the earth would be blessed.

This was a unique covenant. Only one party was necessary. It had no conditions. It wasn't dependent on anything Abraham or his descendants did or did not do. Unlike the covenant that God had made with Adam that had the condition "do not eat," God alone would keep this covenant with Abraham. This would be part of the plot, and the fulfillment of the covenant would unfold in the pages of the Bible.

God made this covenant not because Abraham and his offspring were better than anyone else or more deserving. As stated previously, Abraham and his offspring were chosen so we could identify the promised Savior when He came. Abraham's family would also be witnesses who could testify and record all that God did. This would provide the evidence to link the Savior with the promise of the covenant. To the world, it would seem like an impossible promise to keep. Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were very old when God made this promise. How would Abraham have descendants as numerous as the stars? This made no more sense to Abraham than God's statement to Noah to build an ark.

While Abraham had moments of impatience—for God made him wait—he believed. And finally, Sarah had a miracle baby in her old age. Witnesses would have to think: "It must have been God" to give a baby when it was scientifically impossible. The Bible records many instances where God performs a miracle so that the people will know that He is God. This miracle would also foreshadow the birth of the future Savior, whose birth would also be scientifically impossible.

Abraham continued to walk with God in obedience. Yet as righteous as Abraham was, he wasn't without sin. Sin separates us from a holy God. To atone for sin, a sacrifice had to be made to God. On one occasion, God tested Abraham's obedience. He asked Abraham to offer up his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice. Abraham trusted God. He knew God would somehow keep His promise of numerous descendants, and therefore, in faith, Abraham brought Isaac to the altar. Abraham told Isaac that God would provide a lamb for the sacrifice. Abraham and God were so close, and yet how painful it must have been for Abraham to walk up the mountain, prepared to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac.

Just as Abraham was about to strike Isaac, an angel stopped him. A ram—caught in thorns—was in the thicket. The ram took the place of Isaac and became the blood sacrifice to cover Abraham's sin. Abraham called this place, "the Lord will provide." Certainly, Abraham knew the Lord had and would always keep His promises.

## Personal Application

What is the opposite of trust?

There are several instances that demonstrate that Abraham had faith (or trusted) God. Do you trust God to provide for you? In what areas of your life have you trusted him before? How has God proven Himself trustworthy?

In what areas of your life (or circumstances) do you have a difficult time trusting God? Explain why.

Is it possible to cultivate trust in God? If so, how can we practically cultivate the kind of trust in God (faith) that Abraham had? List some ways below.

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## SUMMARY

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God asked Abraham to give up his most cherished thing—his own son. Sometimes God asks us to “give up” things (even good things!) so we can trust Him more fully. These things can be potential idols, or good things that simply mean too much to us. What “Isaac” do you potentially have in your life that God may be asking you to lay down? Jot down your thoughts.

Additional Notes: