

## Genesis 15:1-6

30 April 2023

ICE BREAKER: Describe something you have achieved or accomplished.

### LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

In Chapter 14, the four Eastern kings had defeated the kings of the plain of Jordan. In the process, Abram's nephew Lot was captured along with his household. Abram led his trained servants and successfully defeated the four Eastern kings, rescuing Lot and his whole household.

Despite the great victory, Abram was **consumed with fear**. There was the possibility that the four kings might return with reinforcements and attack Abram's camp. Abram probably assumed the Eastern kings would not take defeat lightly nor let enmity die down quickly. Abram probably believed war, and possible defeat, would now be a daily possibility.

In the midst of Abram's fear, the LORD came to him. Notice how the LORD addressed Abram. The LORD did not say, "Hey, you!" nor "Listen, fearful one!" Rather, **the LORD greeted him** saying, "**Abram.**"

#### 1. How do you think Abram felt when, in the grip of fear, God called him by **name**?

(Read verse 1) The LORD immediately addressed Abram's fear by commanding him, "Do not be afraid!" The **solution for Abram's fear** would not be based on Abram's military skills (14:15) nor military might (14:14). The LORD did not tell Abram, "You can do it," or "I believe in you." The **basis** would not be on who **Abram** was, but **who the LORD is**.

The LORD reminded Abram why he was not to fear, declaring "**I am your shield.**" The LORD, the Great "**I AM**" is perfectly adequate for man's "**I am not.**"

#### 2. To **relieve** Abram's **fear**, why does **the LORD focus not on Abram, but on Himself**?

(Read verses 1-3) The LORD had given Abram many blessings: victory in battle (14:15-16), the safe rescue of his nephew Lot and Lot's whole household, the blessing bestowed upon him by Melchizedek king of Salem (14:18-20), and the honor from kings (14:17, 21).

Yet, despite victory in battle and all these blessings, Abram was **gripped in fear and insecurity** about his future.

#### 3. How can the accumulation of blessings still lead to **fear** and **insecurity**?

(Read verses 1-3 again) Genesis 13:2 states, "Abram had become **very wealthy** in livestock and in silver and gold." Genesis 14:14 states Abram had "318 trained men born in his household."

Yet, despite all the wealth and success the LORD had given Abram, it was not enough for Abram. **Abram complained** to the Lord, 'O Sovereign LORD, **what can you give me** since I remain childless.'

The LORD anticipated Abram's insecurity and dissatisfaction, by first saying to him, "Abram, I am...**your very great reward.**" The LORD made it a point to remind Abram to remember God was his **greatest treasure**.

#### 4. Why is it necessary for the LORD to urge us to **make Him our greatest treasure**, especially **when we experience wealth and success**?

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### PRAYER GROUP TIME

*(Make a list of people whom those, in your group, plan to witness Christ to this week.)*

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