

# Genesis 14:8-24, 15:1

16 April 2023

ICE BREAKER: Describe a person, not in your immediate family, that has become important in your life.

## LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

We **gain** our **identity in relationships**. We are birthed into identity. When we are born into a family, we become sons or daughters. We immediately receive a new first name and a **shared last name**. Similarly, we marry into identity. We become a husband or wife. We retain our first name, but take on a common last name.

Similarly, **covenants** are **all about relationships**. In the Old Testament, covenants established **binding relationships** that bestowed upon the covenant partners a **shared identity**.

### 1. Outside of God, **what relationship** has **shaped who you are** the most?

(Read verse 14:13) In the Ancient Near East, **water** was often in **limited supply** for both herdsmen and their herds. **Land** for the herds **to graze** was prized, but at times scarce. So how did traveling nomadic peoples, such as Abram, survive this region’s often-harsh climate and limited resources?

They formed **alliances**, that is, they made **covenants** with each other. We find Abram has made two important allies—Mamre the Amorite and Aner. These alliances allowed Abram to secure watering holes for his family and herd, and land for his livestock to graze. This covenant gave Abram the **assurance** that Mamre and Aner would share the limited **resources** of this area with his family and herds, even in difficult times.

### 2. Describe a time **someone provided for you** when you **needed it most**.

(Read verses 14:14-17) Alliances, or covenants, not only assured the sharing of resources, but also promised another crucial benefit—**protection**. The Ancient Near East was a **dangerous world**. At any time, your family, possessions, or livestock could be taken away by raiding bands or local rulers.

Alliances secured protection and assured you that if you were ever attacked, the ally who you covenanted with would come to your rescue or stand up for you. Seeing Abram and his trained men defeat “King Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him”, the surrounding kings sought to ally themselves with Abram.

### 3. Describe a **memory** when **someone** came to your rescue **to stand up for you or fight for you**.

(Read verse 15:1) No words can express the importance for Abram to hear these words from God, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am **your shield (your protection)**, and your **very great reward (your provision)**.” In a dangerous world, **God** promised to be **Abram’s personal protector**. In a world of limited resources, God promised to **provide** for all **Abram’s needs**.

We all seek protection (security) and provision (necessities and the good things in life) often from success, wealth, material things, or other people. Protection and provision are natural desires we seek. The Lord says we have a choice to seek them in the things of the world or to find them in Him.

### 4. Describe how you have ever sought **protection** and **provision from people, success, and wealth, and how you have sought them from God**.

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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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