

## Have You Heard the News | Finding Rest (Genesis 15.1-21)

1. This text illustrates the interesting relationship between understanding and belief. There's so much that we can never fully understand, but we can choose to believe God and trust what he says.
  - a. What are some areas in your life where you are being challenged to trust God even when you don't fully understand?
2. The image of God walking through the dead animals, calling a curse down upon himself if he is unfaithful, while Abram is sleeping is a powerful one.
  - a. What does this scene reveal about God?
  - b. How does this illustrate how God relates with his people?
3. An implication of our justification by faith means we have no grounds for boasting before God, because we could never do enough to earn our salvation before God. It is a gift.
  - a. Are there any ways that you are tempted to believe if you get to the next level God will finally really love you? Where are you trying to strive to earn God's love and favor right now?
  - b. What does it look like for you to rest in what Jesus has provided for you?
4. If what we do doesn't earn us salvation before God, why does our obedience matter?
5. Luther said, "It is not imitation that makes sons; it is sonship that makes imitators." In other words, our obedience doesn't bring us into a right relationship; it is God's grace and our faith that does it. Instead, obedience flows out of our right relationship with God.
  - a. What does this reveal about how we mature in our obedience and faithfulness?