

Day One: Genesis 9:8-17

1. Whom is God addressing (8)? With whom is he covenanting (9-10)? What is his promise (11)? What sign will help both the Lord and us to remember this promise (12-15)? What do you think about the fact that it's not just people who need this reminder, but God too? What does this reveal about how we can relate to him? Describe the way God reiterates both his promise and the symbol of it (15-16)? How does the Lord summarize these remarks (17)?
2. Promises that begin with "never again" can seem severe and unrealistic. How do you respond when the Lord makes such a promise? Besides this specific covenant here in Genesis, what other promises has the Lord made to you? Do you believe he is faithful to uphold them? Why or why not? Ask God to give you symbols like a rainbow by which to remember his promises. How might this change your outlook on God's faithfulness?

Day Two: Genesis 15

1. How did God communicate to Abram (1)? What did he initially say (1)? How did Abram respond (2-3)? What promise did the Lord repeat (4-5)? Note the shift in Abram's response (6). Describe the rest of their conversation (7-9). How did Abram execute God's command (10-11)? Summarize what happened next, and what the Lord spoke (12-16). Describe the way God made the covenant with Abram, and what it entailed (17-21).
2. Re-read verse 17. In this ritual, Abram didn't walk between the pieces; only the Lord did. Unlike the typical binary form of covenants, God will hold up this bargain entirely on his own. No matter how much we doubt or worry, like Abram initially did, he will keep his promises. What do you want to say to the Lord about this? Try expressing your feelings via poetry, song, or dance.

Day Three: Exodus 20:1-21

1. How does God describe Himself (2)? What is the first commandment (3)? What is His edict regarding images (4-5)? Why does He insist on this (5-6)? Explain the connection between the first and second commandment. Summarize the remaining rules (7-17). Why do you think these commandments are the "top ten"? Describe the people's reaction to them, and Moses' attempts to mitigate their fears (18-21).
2. Do you agree that violating any of commandments 2-10 is also always a violation of the first? Why or why not? Meditate on verses 4-6. God's jealous love is an expression of his faithfulness; how does this make you feel? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where your devotion is divided between the Lord and someone or something else. As you contemplate these revelations, what is one specific action you sense the Lord asking you to take?

Day Four: Jeremiah 13:15-17

1. With what posture of body and heart does Jeremiah want the people to listen to this word (15)? Why (15)? When should the people "give glory to the Lord" (16)? What do they want (16)? What will God give to them instead (16)? To grasp the context of these threats, read prior chapters of Jeremiah. How will the prophet respond to the people's disobedience (17)?
2. In verse 17, Jeremiah displays God's heart: he loves us so much that he grieves when we distance ourselves from him. Recall seasons in your life when you've done this. How did you get close again? In doing so, how do you think this shifted God's emotional state: from one of grief to what exactly? Continue to meditate on the truth that what you do and how you relate to the Lord impacts his emotions. What changes does this inspire you to make?

Day Five: Romans 9:16-29

1. What is the source of good outcomes (16)? Why did God raise up Pharaoh (17)? What sums up this approach the Lord takes in using people as object lessons (18)? Describe Paul's argument against those who balk at this way of God (19-21). Why does Paul think God tolerates evil (22-24)? What verses from Hosea and Isaiah does he use to support this claim (25-29)? Which one do you find most compelling? Why?
2. In verse 17, we read that Pharaoh is an object study of God's power. In Hosea 3:1, Hosea is an object study of God's surprising faithfulness. Consider your own life; what does it demonstrate to the world about the Lord? Give thanks to God for using you in this way. But what if you feel hardened instead of thankful, because you believe God holds you up as a negative example? Talk to the Lord about this. What do you sense him speaking in response?