



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 12: Established
Suggested Week of Use: February 18, 2024
Core Passage: Genesis 17:1-10,15-19

News Story Summary

On January 26, a Long Island, New York, man named Steve Mauro had his Rolex watch stolen as he watched the thief drive away. Mauro had listed his watch on an online marketplace. He noted that he had sold many smaller items that way, so he was comfortable meeting the “buyer” at his house. The deal was to sell the watch for \$7,300.

Mauro started to sense something was wrong when the man kept his SUV running and motioned for him to bring the watch to the car. The man then told Mauro to get in the passenger seat where they could complete the transaction. As Mauro moved to the other side of the vehicle, the thief locked the doors, rolled up the windows, and drove off with the watch. Mauro jumped onto the hood of the SUV, but he was thrown off as the driver fled.

For more about this story, search “Long Island Rolex Thief.”

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, lead adults to list words related to a “covenant.” Record their responses on the board. Explain that a covenant is a basic agreement between two parties. Encourage the group to identify some contemporary covenants.

Share the story about Steve Mauro’s experience with an online marketplace. Ask: *How is an arrangement like this similar to a covenant? How do buyers and sellers protect themselves in these situations?* Discuss responses. Share that this session focuses on the covenant God made with Abraham. Emphasize that since the covenant originated with God, Abraham didn’t have to worry about things going wrong. Say: *He knew God would keep His word.*

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, remind adults of the story about Steve Mauro’s stolen watch. Note that Mauro said he believed he could identify a scam, but this man fooled him. Ask: *What could Mauro have done differently in his situation?* Discuss responses. Direct adults to the Challenge questions on page 117 of the Personal Study Guide. Discuss how a failed online experience is far different from any experience we have trusting God. Emphasize God’s faithfulness to His covenants and His faithfulness to us.