

Sermon Notes

"Birth of Isaac"

Genesis 17; 18:1-15; 21:1-7

March 29, 2020

Series Reading Schedule

Mar 22 – Gen 16-17

Mar 29 – Gen 17:15-18:15

Apr 4 (Break from series)

Apr 12 – Gen 22

Apr 19 – Gen 18:16-19:39

Background

a) Covenant

b) Name change

Three Scenes

a)

b)

c)

d. Where in your life do you need to be persuaded that "the one who made the promise is faithful" (Heb. 11:11)? What promises from God are hard for you to believe right now? How does his revealed character and historical record either help or hinder your faith to trust him?

5. Read Genesis 21:1-7. Laughter is a big part of these chapters – Isaac's name, Abraham's laughter, Sarah's laughter on two occasions, and Ishmael's laughter (see Gen. 21:9). What is the difference between some of these instances of laughter? Why do you think this idea of laughter is repeated in this story?

Let's Pray:

Cory, Brooke Passehl and family - YWAM, Hawaii

Pray for Cory and Brooke as they juggle family life with the many aspects of their ministry for the Lord.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 03-29-20

Questions adapted from Nancy Guthrie, The Promised One: Seeing Jesus in Genesis, Crossway, Wheaton, IL, 2011, pp. 177-202; Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Life Change Series: Genesis, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, p. 117-124.

Getting Started:

1. What things make it easier to believe someone's promise?

Digging Deeper:

2. God cut his covenant with Abram in Gen. 15:9-21; now he confirms and establishes it. Read Genesis 17.

a. What is God's side of the agreement (17:2, 4-8)?

b. What was Abram's only responsibility in chapter 15 (15:6)?

c. What does God add to Abram's responsibility in 17:1,9-14?

d. Why is it important for us that God commanded circumcision *after*, and as a sign of, faith and commitment (Romans 4:9-12)?

3. In Genesis 17 God changed the name Abram to Abraham and Sarai to Sarah. We learned in the sermon that the meanings of the new names are basically the same as the old, but the focus was different. What is the new focus? Why is this important? What difference does that change in focus make?

4. Read Gen. 18:1-15.

a. Abraham's guests were the LORD and two angels (see 18:13; 19:1). But Abraham had no idea of this, at least not at first. How does what Abraham's visitors say make obvious to Abraham that his visitors were not ordinary men?

b. For thought and discussion: Both Abraham and Sarah laughed when God said they would have a son (17:17-21; 18:12-15). Some point out that God rebuked Sarah when she laughed, but not Abraham. Do you think something was different about the spirit behind their laughter? Or do you think that God *did* rebuke Abraham by giving his son the name Isaac, "he laughs"?

c. Since the Lord had already told Abraham that Sarah would have a son by this time next year (17:21), the repeat visit with the same message likely focuses on Sarah's faith (18:9-15). What was so important that Sarah come to believe (18:14)? Why was it necessary that she believe this (consider Hebrews 11:11)?