ABRAHAM'S SIGN

Genesis 17 // January 29, 2023

FAITHFUL

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM

REFLECT/CONNECT

- In what ways were your encouraged by last week's study?

- What's a time in your life when waiting was really hard?

Prepare Your Heart & Mind

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.

Reflect/Connect

Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

Grow in the Word

These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

Thirteen years after the birth of Ishmael when Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to him. The Lord reaffirmed the covenant He made with Abram, and He repeated His promises to bless Abram with a multitude of children and land where they would dwell (v. 1-8).

- Why do you think God referred to Himself specifically with the name "God Almighty"? See Genesis 16:1-3, 17:17, 18:12-14.

- What stands out to you about God's command to Abram? Consider the command in light of the events of chapter 16.

- What do you learn about how to wait well from these verses?

God gave Abraham a command that would serve to be a sign that future descendants would be included in the covenant promises. Anyone who was not circumcised would be "cut off" from the covenant community (v. 9-14).

- Why did God choose circumcision to be the symbol of his covenant with Abraham? Consider the events of chapter 16 and some of the ways Abraham had responded in the past.

- Why is it not necessary for Christians to be circumcised in order to receive God's promises? See Colossians 2:11-12; Romans 6:4-5.

- In what ways do you trust in your own efforts, merit, or flesh instead of actively trusting in God?

God proclaimed that Sarah would bear Abraham a son through whom the covenant and its blessings would continue. In response to God's kind promises, Abraham obeyed immediately (v. 15-27).

- What do you learn about God in how he interacted with Abraham in these verses?

- How do you want your thoughts or behaviors to change in light of Genesis 17?

GENESIS (PART 2) BY THE BIBLE PROJECT
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4isSyennFo

This animated short tells the story of the start of God's work to rescue and bless his rebellious world by providing an overview of the second half of the book of Genesis, and by outlining how God moved towards redemption by choosing to bless a man named Abram.

ABRAHAM: ONE NOMAD'S AMAZING JOURNEY OF FAITH - CHUCK SWINDOLL
https://www.amazon.com/Abraham-Nomads-Amazing-Journey-Faith/dp/141438064X

The real-life story of Abraham as told by Chuck Swindoll. In this biography, we encounter false gods, self-seeking glory, and the faith of a man named Abraham through whom God would bless the nations.

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM - THE GOSPEL COALITION
https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/the-life-of-abraham/#course-introduction

This is a free, three-lesson course on the account of Abraham's life as described in Genesis offered by the Gospel Coalition. The course offers video, audio, and downloadable study guides.

WHEN I LAY MY ISAAC DOWN - CAROL KENT
https://www.amazon.com/When-Lay-Isaac-Down-Circumstances/dp/1641582723

Carol Kent looks to Abraham's faith as she describes her struggle and surrenders to God in the aftermath of her son's murder conviction and subsequent incarceration. Dealing with her anger, grief, and shame, Carol could have given up. Instead, she tells a highly personal, heartbreaking, and uplifting story that will bolster your faith.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS

Arizona | Czech Republic | Guatemala
Peru | Rwanda

We are resuming our short-term mission trips and would love to have you join us this year! Learn more and apply online.

MEN'S SUMMIT RETREAT

February 24 - 26 | Camp Eagle | $149

Men, join us as we learn how to "Be Ready" to give an account for our hope in every circumstance. Learn more and register online soon - only 49 spots remain!

Find more information and register for events on our mobile app and website!