



FIRST LIGHT CHURCH

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Date: 3/10/2024

Series: Genesis Study-Abram

Text: Genesis 17:15-27

BIG IDEA: God's Promised Plan Will Always Be Accomplished.

ICEBREAKER: If you could know the absolute and total truth to one question, what question would you ask?

CONTEXT: God gave, the now 99-year-old, newly renamed, Abraham a surprising revelation that within a year, his 89-year-old wife, (Sarai) whose name was just changed by God to Sarah, would bear him a son and his name will be Isaac. He also tells him that Ishmael, his now 13-year-old son, will be blessed and will be a father to twelve rulers and will be a great nation. God tells Abraham that His covenant promises will be through Isaac. Abraham faithfully follows God's orders, and every male is circumcised.

PASSAGE: Have volunteers read Genesis 17:15-27.

DISCUSSION:

1. Why do you think that name changes for Abram and Sarai are so relevant to the story? Talk about the names of Ishmael (GOD HEARS) and Isaac (HE WHO LAUGHS). Why do you suppose that God named both of them?
2. Did Abraham's laughter seem to derive from cynical doubt or was it because he was rejoicing because he could hardly believe his ears? Why does God have to repeat His promise? Read Romans 4:17-21 and then discuss these questions.
3. In what ways has your faith been challenged lately? How has your faith been strengthened?
4. Can you describe a time when God did something in your own life or in someone else's life that you know, that you didn't think was possible? If so, please share it.
5. Do you ever have fear or trepidation in going along with God's plans? Why or why not?
6. Why is it so important that our outward actions reflect our inward faith in God?

APPLICATION:

7. What is God telling you to do at this time with which you may have inner struggles?
8. What is one way that you can encourage others with your own faith and obedience?

COMMUNITY CONNECTION:

Many in our world are struggling with seemingly impossible circumstances and situations that can seem dire. Look for opportunities to pray with others who are going through these difficulties and help them bear the burden. Maybe this also means an outward and tangible service like providing a meal, some free childcare, a financial gift, or meeting another physical need. Sharing God's love in practical ways is an act of obedience to the Lord and a great path for being able to share our faith with others within our scope of influence.

CARE AND PRAY:

- Ask God to give you opportunities to bless others and help bear their burdens.

- Pray for God's wisdom and guidance in decisions that you have to make.
- Ask God to forgive your doubts and unbelief and to help you to trust Him more deeply.