



the promise

READ

- During the next few weeks, we look forward to the Advent, or coming, of the Christ who saves us from our sins. In these passages, we look at how we got to this point and why it is important.
- Read Genesis 17:1-8, 15-21; 21:1-8 and consider what lesson the Holy Spirit intends us to learn.

EXAMINE

- God made a promise to Abram and with it he changed his name from “Exalted Father” to Abraham, “Father of Multitudes”. He changed Sarai’s name to Sarah. What was the promise? Why was it significant that God gave them new names?
- What was Abraham’s part of the Covenant? What was God’s part? Once entered, was the covenant conditional (v.8)?
- What was so significant about God’s promise to Abraham? How did Abraham respond?

APPLY

- The covenant with Abraham is very important for us, as believers. God promises land for Abraham’s descendants, many descendants and nations, and that God will bring blessings on all the earth through Abraham’s line (Gen 12:1-3). What part of this promise applies to us and how did God fulfill it?
- How does this help us to see the value of the Old Testament (Old Covenant) for our faith?
- Abraham originally tried to circumvent God’s plan, because he wasn’t sure of it. Then he asked God to bless that (Ishmael). Have you ever decided not to wait on God? Or is there a time when you remember waiting on God?
- How is God bringing laughter and joy in your life through the fulfillment of His promises to you? What can you do to be the hands and feet of Christ to those around you?

PRAY

- Take time to write out below a prayer responding to this passage:

Worship God for working out of His salvation here in this story. Praise Him for fulfilled promises, that every promise of God’s is “Yes!” and amen in Jesus Christ. Confess where you have not waited for Him. Thank Him for His love and His plan. Ask Him to use you in bringing the fulfillment of His plan to others.

NOTES

DECEMBER 5, 2021