

PATIENCE IN THE PROMISE

GENESIS 17:1-18:15

Sunday, October 13, 2024 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

WAITING on God's promises can be hard, (17:1)

testing our faith James 1:2-4; Psalm 27:14; 37:7; Job 23:10

showing God's power Isaiah 46:10; Romans 5:3-5

↓ but his Word is **SURE** (17:1-8, 15-21)

new details

new names

↑ and our obedient patience will be **REWARDED**. (17:9-14, 22-27)

obedience through faith

he keeps his promises Lamentations 3:25-26; Hebrews 11:6; Revelation 22:12



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 — Text **APP** to get our app.
 Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "**Pray for...**" followed by your request.
 Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.



BIBLICAL FAITH IS...
 believing God's Word
 and acting upon it
 no matter how I feel
 because God promises a good result.
 (—and he keeps all his promises!)



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? — Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You
 Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, here's a *random* question to discuss and break the ice as you get going. Have everyone answer:
What's the most useless talent you have that you're secretly proud of?

Digging Deeper – A Bible Study






Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

- It's easy to acknowledge God's omnipotence, but harder to live in faith recognizing it. In **Genesis 17-18**, Sarai and Abram doubted when God promised a son, yet God asked, "Is anything too difficult for Yahweh?" (**Gen 18:14**). Despite their disbelief, God made Sarai a mother, showing his power to accomplish the impossible. **Read Genesis 17:1-18:15.**
- Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching*, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you? *Discuss it with your group before moving on.*
- In the message this week, Pastor Josh pointed out that God repeated His promise to Abram several times throughout his life, and each time, God made the promise more specific.
 Focusing on this dynamic in God's promises regarding land, **read Gen 12:1-3, 7; 13:14-17; 15:1-6, 18-21.** Then, discuss the following questions.
 - How do God's promises to give Abram a land get more specific?
 - Why do you think God continued to give more specific details?
 - How do you think this greater specificity affected Abram's faith in these promises?
- Now let's focus on God's promise of a descendant, **read Gen 12:1-3, 7; 13:14-17; 15:1-6, 18-21.** Then, discuss the following questions:
 - How do God's promises to make Abram a great nation get more specific?
 - How do you think the revelation that God's promise would come specifically through the offspring of Abram and Sarai affected Abram's faith in these promises?

WELCOME TO WAWASEE!

OUR OUTCOMES This is who we hope you grow to *become* at Wawasee Bible...

If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...

- 
1 | Receiving From God. Am I reading the Word regularly? When am I gathering to hear the Word taught? What fruit of the Spirit do I see growing in my life?
- 
2 | Responding To God. How am I talking to and listening to God regularly? What are some healthy spiritual habits I'm working on (things like giving, scripture memory, repentance, rest, etc.)?
- 
3 | Receiving From Others. Where and how am I in community/friendship with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?
- 
4 | Moving Toward Others. How and where am I contributing to and initiating community with other Christians in our church? (Or am I only consuming?)
- 
5 | Going to those Far from God. How am I regularly going toward those who are far from God—loving them, sharing God's Story and my own story? When was the last time I shared God's story and/or my faith story? Who is on my PEARL list?

WORD FIND IN THE WORD

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find: Genesis 18:9-14 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

⁹ They **said** to him, "Where is **Sarah** your **wife**?" And he **said**, "She is in the **tent**." ¹⁰ The **LORD** **said**, "I will **surely return** to you about this **time next** year, and **Sarah** your **wife** shall have a son." And **Sarah** was **listening** at the **tent door** behind him. ¹¹ Now **Abraham** and **Sarah** were old, **advanced** in years.

The way of women had	D S L B E A R D E U P A
ceased to be with Sarah .	H U I N D E E D O O R P
¹² So Sarah laughed to	W R S N E X T S A I D P
herself, saying, "After I am	G E T L B V U D N E A O
worn out, and my lord is old,	P L E A S U R E Y S S I
shall I have pleasure ?"	M Y N U S S N P T S E N
¹³ The LORD said to Abraham ,	T W I G A B R A H A M T
"Why did Sarah laugh and	I L N H R D U H I U C E
say, 'Shall I indeed bear a	M L G X A D V A N C E D
child , now that I am old?' ¹⁵ Is	E W V A H W U R G D A T
anything too hard for the	Y I R L L O R D E P S E
LORD ? At the appointed time	E F B U P R A W O M E N
I will return to you, about this	C E N H A N C H I L D T
time next year, and Sarah	
shall have a son."	

life groups Study Guide (continued)

5. Genesis 17 begins with "Abram was ninety-nine years old" when Yahweh appeared again (**Gen 17:1**). Thirteen years had passed since **Gen 15-16**, and 24 years since God's call (**Gen 12:4**). After this wait, Abraham learned Sarah would bear a son within the year (**Gen 17:21**). Assured, he circumcised every male in his household as commanded (**Gen 17:23**).

- Why do you think God waited so long to give Abram and Sarai a son?
- How would this long wait have affected Abram and Sarai's faith?
- Reflect on a time when you felt God leading you toward something that you felt was impossible. How did you respond?

Taking It Home

6. The story of Abraham and Sarah is not just about God's promise and faithfulness; it's about discovering God's character as they follow him.

When God called Abraham from Ur, he followed without question (Gen 12:1). However, decades later, when God said Sarah would have a son, both laughed in doubt (Gen 17:17; 18:12). Their laughter showed they didn't grasp the fullness of God's power and that nothing is too difficult for God (Gen 18:14).

Discuss the following as you wrap up:

- When have you responded in laughter to God's promise in your own life
- How has God convinced you of His omnipotence?
- How does thinking about the Bible as a description of God's character change your view of God's Word?
- How does thinking of the Bible as a story that tells us who God is affect the way you view your life story?

Prayer

As you close, take time to pray for each other. **Divide into separate groups of men and women.** Feel free to share requests; just be sure each person gets prayed for.

This week's Study Guide is adapted in part from Grigoni, Michael R., et al. Abraham: Following God's Promise. Lexham Press, 2012.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

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JOURNEY UNCHARTED

Sunday, October 13, 2024

PART 5

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GENESIS 17:1-18:15



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