

Promise-Keeping **GOD**

CENTRAL TRUTH | The Lord is always faithful to fulfill His promises.

About twenty four years had passed since Abram left his father's house and country, and entered the land of Canaan, walking with the Lord. A lot has happened in that time, some good and some not so good. Abram wrestled with faithfulness during these years, but God remained faithful. This week we are going to learn about God's fulfillment of some of the promises that He had made, and look at the establishment of some promises to come. Like Abram, we live in the middle of promises-come-true and in the anticipation of promises-not-yet. But also like Abram, we can rest and take heart that the Lord is always faithful to fulfill His promises!

REFLECT

What questions do I have about God?

What questions do I have about myself?

What questions do I have about the world and those around me?

GENESIS 17:1-5

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him, saying, “I am God Almighty. Live in my presence and be blameless. ² I will set up my covenant between me and you, and I will multiply you greatly.”

³ Then Abram fell facedown and God spoke

with him: ⁴ “As for me, here is my covenant with you: You will become the father of many nations. ⁵ Your name will no longer be Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I will make you the father of many nations.

GENESIS 17:6-8

⁶ “I will make you extremely fruitful and will make nations and kings come from you. ⁷ I will confirm my covenant that is between me and you and your future offspring throughout their generations. It is a permanent covenant to be

your God and the God of your offspring after you. ⁸ And to you and your future offspring I will give the land where you are residing—all the land of Canaan—as a permanent possession, and I will be their God.”

GENESIS 21:1-7

¹ The LORD came to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised.

² Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time God had told him. ³ Abraham named his son who was born to him—the one Sarah bore to him—Isaac. ⁴ When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as

God had commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶ Sarah said, “God has made me laugh, and everyone who hears will laugh with me.” ⁷ She also said, “Who would have told Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne a son for him in his old age.”

Day01

GENESIS 17:1-5



Refer to page 5 for a description of the 7 Arrows of Bible Reading.

📍 READ & RESPOND

Last week we learned that Abram was seventy five years old when God made a covenant with him to become a great nation. Today we'll learn Abram was ninety nine and still waiting, but the Lord appeared to Abram again and reaffirmed the promise. God changed Abram's name, meaning "high father," to Abraham, "father of a multitude." He wasn't going to just be a father, but he would be the father of a chosen lineage that would bring salvation to the world. Abraham had waited a long time for God to fulfill His promise. He tried to move it along himself with his wife's slave (see Gen. 16) and made a huge mess, but God's promises cannot be rushed nor ruined. When He makes a promise, He is faithful to fulfill it.

← Abram is not the only name God changed in the Bible. What are some other name changes in the Bible? What was God doing in their lives when He changed their names?

↑ What does this passage tell us about God's timing? Why is His timing better than ours?

→ How are we also called to "live in [God's] presence and be blameless"?

📍 MEMORIZE

Write out **Genesis 17:2** on a notecard. Read the passage out loud five times. Next, read it in a whisper five times. Finally, say it in your head with your eyes closed five times.

📍 PRAY

Lord, Your timing is always perfect. Help me to trust in it. Remind me when I get anxious that I can trust Your will and take comfort in Your timing.

Day 02

GENESIS 17:6-8

📍 READ & RESPOND

God continues in today's passage to reaffirm His covenant with Abraham. Abraham would have many children, a lineage that would produce kings and nations. God promised a permanent relationship with Abraham and his descendants. He committed Himself to be the God of Abraham's people and to give them permanent possession of the land of Canaan. It's difficult to discuss this passage without also discussing the promised land of today and all the chaos, war, and fighting happening over it. This conflict isn't modern. The land promised to Abraham has been the target of battle since God sent the Israelites to claim it. What we do know is that the covenant of descendants was best fulfilled in Jesus, and the covenant of the land will be fulfilled when Jesus returns.

← Why would a 99-year-old man with one son find the promise of “nations and kings” absolutely wild?

↓ How do you struggle to believe God can do big things through “ordinary” people?

↺ What is one “impossible” area of your life where you need to trust God's timing now?

📍 MEMORIZE

Write out **Genesis 17:2** on a piece of paper or notecard. On the back, write only the first letter of every word, including punctuation. Keep attempting this until you get every word in the right order.

📍 PRAY

Lord, thank You for being a God who keeps His word across every generation. Help me trust Your everlasting promises when my life feels uncertain.

Day**03****GENESIS 21:1-7** **READ & RESPOND**

At last, twenty-five years after God promised Abraham and Sarah a son, Isaac was born. The circumstances of Isaac's birth were clearly God-ordained. Sarah was ninety years old, and Abraham was one hundred. The name Isaac means "he laughs," which comes from when God told Abraham and Sarah they would have a child in their old age. Their response? They laughed (see Gen. 17:17; 18:12)! But in verse 6, Sarah says, "God has made me laugh, and everyone who hears will laugh with me." Sarah and Abraham went from laughing at the very idea to laughing with contagious joy. God's promises do not always take us on the path that we think is most logical or sensible, but His promises are good. We can trust that He works for our good and His glory (see Rom. 8:28).

 **What does verse 1 tell us about God's promises?**

 **How have you seen God work in a surprising and unexpected way?**

 **What do you need to be trusting God to do in your life right now?**

 MEMORIZE

Instead of writing out **Genesis 17:2** in words, draw the verse using icons or symbols. Translating the passage into images helps you to process the meaning of the words.

 PRAY

Lord, thank You for keeping Your promises. Help me to trust in You when the pathway looks a little unconventional. Your miracles bring contagious joy, and I know that You will do as You say.

Day04

JOHN 8:54-59

📍 READ & RESPOND

The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders often tried to corner Jesus to trick, belittle, and discredit Him, but always with zero success. In today's passage, yet another group of Jewish leaders didn't recognize who He was. Through His miracles and teachings, they should have known that He was the Messiah, but they weren't looking for Him because they didn't really know Him. In verse 58, He told them, "I am the I AM!" Just like God revealed His name (Yahweh, I AM) to Moses, Jesus revealed Himself here using the same name. He made Himself equal to God. But they would not accept Him. They did not understand that Jesus, descended from Abraham, would be the blessing through whom the whole world would be blessed.

🔁 What did Jesus mean when He said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad"?

↑ What does this passage tell us about Jesus's divinity?

↓ Why do we often miss the work of the Lord that's right in front of our faces? How can we pay better attention to God's work around us?

📍 MEMORIZE

Record yourself reading **Genesis 17:2** different ways: (1) in a normal voice, (2) in a whisper, (3) as fast as you possibly can. Can you think of other ways? Be sure to listen back to the recordings.

📍 PRAY

Jesus, You are the great I AM! You are God and worthy of praise. Thank You for the blessing of salvation in You.

Day**05****HEBREWS 11:8-10** **READ & RESPOND**

In John 14:15, Jesus tells His followers, “If you love me, you will keep my commands.” Obedience is the evidence of a faith-filled heart. It is the action of belief. The same was true in the Old Testament as well. The author of Hebrews listed Abraham in his list of faithful followers because Abraham believed God, so he obeyed Him. He set out for Canaan as God instructed. He believed that God would do as He said He would do, and Abraham’s actions reflected his belief. Do your actions reflect that you believe that Jesus is who He says He is? Your obedience to the commands of Jesus is evidence of your faith. Does your life show that you are a faithful follower of Jesus, that He is your Lord and the boss of your life?

 **What is the evidence of Abraham’s faith mentioned in this passage?**

 **Do your actions reflect your faith in Jesus? Why or why not?**

 **What needs to change in your obedience to the Lord? Spend some time asking God to help you follow His commands and strengthen your belief in Him.**

 MEMORIZE

Rewrite **Genesis 17:2** in today’s modern language. You could even text-speak it, but be sure to keep the theology accurate! Paraphrasing in everyday language ensures we comprehend what we’re memorizing.

 PRAY

Jesus, I believe You are who You say You are. You are the Lord of my life, and I want to be obedient to Your commands.