

## Sermon #3: The God Who Calls

24 May 2026

### **BREAKING THE ICE**

- Have you ever faced a situation that seemed humanly impossible? How did you feel about it and what happened?

### **UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH**

*Read the Passage (Genesis 17:1-7, 15-22; 18:1-15; 21:1-7)*

*Abram is now 99 years old as his story continues and he has a 13-yr old son, Ishmael, through his wife, Sarai's, servant named Hagar. This was an extremely common custom of the Ancient Near East. Keep in mind, there was no Bible at this time. God was revealing Himself into this broken, fallen culture.*

1. What name does God use to reveal Himself to Abram in verse 1? Why might this name be important for Abram to know? (Consider that Abram comes from a culture of many gods & lives in a world where every nation has its own god(s))
2. List all the things that God says about Himself ("I" statements) in this passage (1-7). How do God's promises depend on the Name He revealed of Himself in vs 1?
3. Why does God rename Abram to Abraham? (Have someone in your group Google "What nations have descended from biblical person of Abraham?")
4. What does this tell you about God's promises?
5. Read verses 15-22, describe how God makes his promise of covenant descendants more specific.
6. How does Abraham respond? Why?
7. What do you learn about God from His selective choice of whom He will covenant with?
8. Read Gen 18:1-15. What is unique about this appearance of the Lord to Abraham.
9. What does this teach you about God, that He would visit Abraham in such a unique way to confirm His promise to Him?
10. What is Sarah's response to the promise of a son? (vs 11-12).
11. How do these divine visitors respond? (vs 13-14).
12. What do they say about God and how does it relate to the Name God revealed to Abraham in chpt 17?
13. Read Gen 21:1-6. How do you see what God has revealed through all these passages come together? What do you learn about God and

### **SEEING JESUS CHRIST**

*Abraham and Sarah had to trust God to do the impossible (make nations from a couple who were old & infertile) and despite their doubts, they believed God. Jesus (who never had physical children) however, believed that His Father could from Him make a multitude of peoples His children.*

- How does seeing God's miraculous fulfillment of promises through Jesus move you to trust Him more deeply in your situations?

### **MAKING IT MATTER**

1. Sarah and Abraham both struggled with doubt when God's timing seemed too late. In what area of your life are you currently tempted to laugh skeptically at God's promises because of a long delay?
2. Say out loud the Name God revealed of Himself "God Almighty" and then quote the first part of Genesis 18:14 "Is anything impossible for the LORD?" Answer this question out loud in regards to any area of doubt in your life today. Each group member participate.
3. Move to a time of prayer and take time to pray for each other in areas in which you desire to trust God for what seems impossible.

### **PRAYING FOR GOD'S POWER**

"This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him." 1 John 5:14-15

When we pray according to God's will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

1. Ask people to share one key, specific application from today's lesson that they want God to bring about in their life. Then take time to pray for each other in these areas.