

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BIBLE FOR ALL (BFA) MATERIAL FOR SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION

Genesis – Living in Redemptive Grace

Sermon Series

07, 14 August 2022	Genesis 16-17	Faith in God's Covenant Promised
21, 28 August 2022	Genesis 18:1-19:29	Faith Provides



created by the Bible Project

07, 14 August 2022

Genesis 16-17

Faith in God's Covenant Promised

What do you think is a reasonable timeline for fulfilling a promise made?

STUDY

Read Genesis 16:1-6.

1. What was the situation? (vv.1-2; cf. Gen 15:4; consider also how much time has passed since God's first promise to Abram in Gen 12:1-3)

Dig Deeper

Compare Abram and Sarai to Adam and Eve in Gen. 3. How is this situation the same, and how is it different?

2. What was Sarai's solution to the problem presented (vv.3-6)? Was this a good solution?

Read Genesis 16:7-16.

3. What did the angel of the Lord tell Hagar?

a. Commands (vv.9, 11):

Dig Deeper

Do you think Hagar told Abram about this encounter? Why?

b. Promise (v.10):

c. Information (vv.11-12):

4. Hagar's response acknowledged that the God who had spoken to her was a God who sees and hears those who are in need. In what way(s) do you think God's message to her reassured her?

Is it possible that Ishmael could be the promised son? Compare what is promised for Ishmael (v.12) with what is promised to Abram in Gen. 12:1-3.

Read Genesis 17:1-14. After 13 silent years, God speaks to Abram again with further instructions.

5. God reiterates His promise to Abram again in vv.3-14. What is the same and what is different from the other times God has spoken this promise to Abram? (See Gen 12:1-3, 7; Gen 13:14-17; Gen 15:1, 5, 7, 9, 13-21.)

Dig Deeper

What significance is there in God renaming both Abram and Sarai to Abraham and Sarah?

6. What is Abram's response to God?

Read Genesis 17:15-27. God promises once again that a son will be born to Abraham, but this time He specifies that this son will be born through Sarah, who is beyond childbearing age.

7. How does Abraham respond to God in this section? Does this align with his earlier response in vv.1-14?

Dig Deeper

Have you ever tried to bargain with God? What was the result?

What is the significance of both Ishmael and Abraham's household being included in the rite of circumcision?

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

In Genesis 16-17, we have three main characters, each facing their own problems arising from different causes. Each of them try to solve their problems in their own ways.

8. Identify the problem, cause, solution, and result that each character experiences in this narrative:

	Problem	Cause	Solution	Result
Sarai				
Hagar				
Abram				

9. Based on our study of Genesis so far, what do you notice about God's covenant and God's timing? In what ways do we see this in our lives today?

APPLICATION

10. Consider your life and how God has worked in it so far. When have you seen God working in His time and in His way? Has it been easy to trust in Him throughout?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson and a key verse from this study.

How should we pray and change in response to what we have learnt?

DISCIPLESHIP IN COMMUNITY

- **Share:** Tell your group members about something you are praying for right now which God seems not to have answered yet. Take note of these and help each other to look out for signs of God's working in your lives in these areas.

PRAY FOR ORPC – AUDIO AND VISUAL MINISTRY

- Pray for good health and time protection to AV crewmembers who are on duty every Sunday worship services or other events.
- Pray that God will grant wisdom and knowledge to AV crewmembers in every technical aspect for getting the smooth running of all AV equipment for both onsite and live streaming worship service.
- Pray for AV crewmembers to continue persevere in learning new things and serving God & His people through AV Ministry especially during challenging time when unknown issues surface during services.

21, 28 August 2022

Genesis 18:1-19:29

Faith Provides

What do you think is most important in determining whether a promise will be carried out – the character of the one promising, the track record of the one promising, the character of the promise recipient, or the track record of the promise recipient?

STUDY

Read Genesis 18:1-15.

1. In the Ancient Near East (where Abraham was), hospitality was seen as a must. How did Abraham receive these unexpected visitors?

2. The three men had a discussion with Abraham while they ate. What did they promise, and what was Sarah's response to it? Compare this also with Abraham's response to the same promise in Gen 17:15-18.

Dig Deeper

Do you think Abraham knew who the visitors were? Why or why not?

Why was Sarah afraid?

Read Genesis 18:16-33.

3. As in Genesis 8:21-22, God speaks to Himself and deliberates on a decision (vv.17-19). Why do you think we are told about God's internal dialogue? In what way(s) does it help to explain what happens next?

4. In this section, much space is spent on Abraham's response to YHWH, which indicates to us how important it is. What is Abraham's response to God's revelation? What is Abraham's basis for his response?

Dig Deeper

Why is it important for Abraham to know that God will not punish the righteous along with the unrighteous? Consider what Abraham's household is meant to be in the world.

Read Genesis 19:1-11.

5. How did Lot receive the angels when they arrived at Sodom? Did he know who they were?

6. The men of Sodom surrounded Lot's house and demanded that he bring the visitors out that they may "know" them (this is a euphemism for having sex with them). What was Lot's response? What surprises you about this episode?

Dig Deeper

Compare Lot's reception of the angels with Abraham's prior reception of them. What are the similarities and the differences?

Do you think the other residents of Sodom knew that there were visitors to the city? What would you have expected their response to be?

Read Genesis 19:12-29.

7. Lot is warned by the angels to bring his family out with him from Sodom, much like Noah was warned to bring his family into the ark with him, escaping from certain destruction. What was the response of Lot and his family (including his potential sons-in-law)? How does this compare to the response of Noah and his family?

8. What is the basis of Lot's safety from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (v.29)? What does this tell us about how we are all saved?

Dig Deeper

In Genesis 19:12-29, Lot pleads for the safety of Zoar much as Abraham pleaded for the safety of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 18:22-33. What were their respective reasons for their pleas?

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

9. Genesis 18 and 19 parallel each other. In Genesis 18, there are two promises (one for blessing, and one for destruction). And Genesis 19 gives a commentary on one of the promises. What does this teach us about God's plans and promises?

APPLICATION

10. Consider Genesis 18-19 and the struggles that Abraham, Sarah, Lot, and Lot's family had with trusting in God's plans and promises. In what way(s) do you struggle with God's plans and promises today? Does Genesis 18-19 give you any hope in your struggles?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson and a key verse from this study.

How should we pray and change in response to what we have learnt?

DISCIPLESHIP IN COMMUNITY

- **Share:** Tell your group members of a time when you were reminded that God's plans and promises can be trusted. Encourage each other to hold firm to His promises in the midst of the storms you are each facing.

PRAY FOR ORPC – USHERING MINISTRY

- Pray for ushers to stay safe and in good health
- Pray for every usher to continue growing in their personal walk with Christ and serving with humility, joy, and cheerful heart. For all usher leaders to continue engage and show care to their team members.
- Pray for all ushers to persevere during this difficult time and continue to serve.