

IN the first half of Genesis 17, God appears to Abraham for a third time, here discussing the covenant already spoken. In the midst of His covenantal reminder, God grants Abram a new name and a sign of this covenant He establishes for Abraham and the nation that will become Israel.

# Genesis 17:1-14

## The Covenant

### I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

#### **MY EXPERIENCE...**

#### **YOUR EXPERIENCE...**

Many covenants are marked with a sign giving a visual representation of their existence. While significant, the symbol (or sign) of the covenantal agreement does not carry greater significance than the covenant itself, however, we can sometimes lose the real meaning of the covenantal sign, putting emphasis where it ought not to be.

### II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

**CAN** you describe a kind of covenant that has a sign to go with it?

**HOW** much significance does the sign a covenantal agreement carry?

**DESCRIBE** a situation where someone wants the sign of a covenantal agreement without the actual covenant.

In a marriage, the woman goes through a name change. **WHAT** significance does a name change represent? **HOW** might a name change be significant in other circumstances?

# Genesis 17:1-14    Read Genesis 17:1-14

## The Covenant

### **OBSERVATION**

What name does God use for Himself in vs. 1?

How does God tell Abram to act before Him and for what purpose (vs. 1-2)?

What does God change Abram's name to in vs. 5?

In vs. 5-8, list all the details you observe regarding God's covenant He promises to Abraham.

What is the sign of this covenant? What details can you observe about it from vs. 12-14?

### **INTERPRETATION**

What does the name used by God in vs. 1 mean?

What does "walk before me" and "blameless" mean in vs. 1?

Why does God give Abram a new name in vs. 5?

How does this covenant in Genesis relate to the New Covenant spoken of in Jeremiah 31:31-34?

What is the sign of the New Covenant (Romans 2:28-29)?

What role does faith play in both of these covenants? Consider Romans 4:2-12.

What promise does God give under the New Covenant (1 John 1:9)?

According to Hebrews 9:15-28, why is the New Covenant better than the Old?

According to 2 Corinthians 3:1-18, how have we been established as ministers of this New Covenant?

### **APPLICATION**

How can we become more occupied with the Old Covenant than the New? What makes the new Covenant better than the Old?