

After the Lord gives Abram his new name, He then does the same for Sarai, following with a blessing on her as well, and the promise of a son. Abraham responds to this interaction with obedience to the covenant previously given. Sarah, however, is unsure of what's to come, laughing at the idea of a child in her old age. This section ends with an introduction of the atrocities displayed in Sodom and Gomorrah, specifically, what the Lord will do there.

Genesis 17:15- 18:21

The Covenant

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Much has been said about the various character traits of the Lord. His attributes set Him apart from all other things. It's His character and power, His truth and His mercy, and all the things in-between that make Him so difficult to describe, yet it's also what makes Him so glorious and wonderful.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHAT attribute of God do you find most wonderful?

HOW do you think God views our obedience to Him? **DO** you see it similarly?

DO you experience the Lord as approachable, or does He seem more distant?

HOW much of your life do you think God really "sees"?

Genesis 17:15- 18:21

The Covenant

Read Genesis 17:15-18:21

OBSERVATION

What new name does God give Sarai and what does it mean?
How does Abraham respond to the Lord's plan to bless Sarah (vs. 17)?
How does Abraham show concern for Ishmael in vs. 18?
What is God's response to Abraham's concern (vs. 19-21)?
Describe what you observe regarding Abraham's obedience to God's commandment surrounding the covenant in vs. 22-27.
Who does Abraham encounter in 18:1-2?
What do you observe about the way he interacts with these men?
In vs. 9-15, what does the Lord reveal for a second time to Abraham?
What is Sarah's response?
In vs. 16-21, what question does the Lord present in vs. 17?
What appears to be the reason for the Lord's visit to Sodom (vs. 20-21)?

INTERPRETATION

What seems to be Abraham's motivation for his response to what the Lord says He will do in vs. 15-17? Is this different from Sarah's response in vs.12?

Why does Abraham suggest that Ishmael "might live before Him" in vs. 18? What's God's response to this suggestion? How does Paul use these two men as an object lesson, and for what purpose, in Galatians 4:22-28?

What can we learn from Abraham's obedience in vs. 22-27?

Who are the three men who visit Abraham in 18:1-3? Consider Genesis 19:1 for further insight.

Why does Abraham respond to the men the way he does in vs. 4-8?

When God reveals His plan to Sarah, why does she laugh (vs. 11-13)? How does the Lord respond to her in vs. 13-15)?

Why do you think the Lord raised the question in vs. 17 before Abraham? Consider vs. 22-33 for insight.

APPLICATION

What characteristics of the Lord are revealed from this passage, and how do they shape your view of Him?