

GENESIS 18 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

NOTHING IS TOO HARD FOR GOD - [\(SERMON MP3\)](#)

The Lord had already told Abraham that his wife would have a son “at this time next year” (Genesis 17:15-21). What do you think was the purpose of returning to repeat the announcement in (Genesis 18:9-15)?

- Who do you think was the primary focus of this second announcement _____?
- In the ancient near eastern culture sharing a meal and staying in someone’s dwelling place was a sign of peace, fellowship, and relationship. How might those signal favors from God have been significant in Abraham and Sarah’s life?
- Covenants were often accompanied with meals. An agreement would be met and mutual fellowship would be enjoyed over food. We see this in the treaty with Abimelech in (Genesis 26:28-30). We see it in the message to the church of _____ in (Revelation 3:20). We see this in Jesus’ establishment of the New Covenant as remembered in _____ (Matthew 26:26-30), and ultimately we will see it in the full fellowship enjoyed in a particular banquet known as _____ (Revelation 19:7).
- In (James 2 :23; Isaiah 41:8) Abraham is referred to as the _____ of God. This meal that the Lord shares with Abraham is the only case before the incarnation in which the Lord ate food set before him. Perhaps friendship was affirmed in that special meal.

We often reserve the expressions of our love for those we know well and care about deeply. But the word “hospitality” guides us in a different direction. The term actually means, “love for strangers.” It is the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests and visitors. Where do we see a demonstration of hospitality in Genesis 18?

- According to (Titus 1:8) what is one mark or qualification of a good elder/pastor _____? Look up (Hebrews 13:2). Is hospitality a requirement limited to overseers? YES | NO (circle one) What does that text suggest as a motivation for demonstrating love for strangers?
- Hospitality is based on your heart not your resources. Some people say things like “I just don’t have a nice home to entertain in.” Or, “I’m not a good cook and I can’t afford good food to host people.” What do you think of these statements? Would you be considered a hospitable person YES | NO (circle one) Explain your answer.
- What are some practical suggestions you can share with your study group that would enhance “hospitality” in our everyday lives? What are some hospitality lessons that you have learned along the way?
- What warning is given in connection to hospitality in (1Peter 4:9) _____? What kind of thoughts would go through a person’s mind if they were struggling in this way?

The promise to Sarah was the annunciation of an impossible birth. The Lord promised something that was humanly unimaginable. Many centuries later, a virgin named Mary would receive an annunciation of the birth of Jesus. How could such a thing be? It was humanly impossible for a virgin to conceive and bear a son. Both ladies received an impossible promise, but they did not initially respond the same way. Compare and contrast the ladies’ response to the humanly impossible news in the table below.

Sarah (Genesis 18:9-15)	Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

- How does God reveal himself in (Genesis 18:14; Luke 1:37) _____? What does El Shaddai mean _____ (Genesis 17:1)? How do (Mark 10:27; Jeremiah 32:17) contribute to your understanding of this God?

