GENESIS 17 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE SIGN OF THE COVENANT - (SERMON MP3)

After 13 more years pass, Abram's body has become a dried up tree without sap, and Sarah's womb at 90 years of age has become a wilted flower. It would require a miracle from the Author of Life to bring about progeny from this senior couple. In Genesis 17, four new developments arise in the story. Look up the following verses and fill in the blanks below.

There was a new revelation of God as the(17:1).	
There was a new demand by God to before him and be (17:1).	
There was a new identification from God which included new names(17:5) and(17:15), and a new practice(17:10-11).	called
There was a new offspring identified and named (17:16, 19).	
Today, many people want to adopt a god of their own making. They say things like, "I like to think of God as" Or they say, "My Gike that." Many people want to pick and choose what they will believe and what they will do. They act as though God were interviewing position of "personal deity." People want things that work for them, and in so doing they don't want a god who is really God. In (GIT:1) we see something very different. We meet "God Almighty" who commands Abram.	ng for the
How would you describe the kind of God we see in Genesis 17? Does he match your perception of deity?	
Notice God's revelation of himself in Genesis 17:1, and Abram's humble response in Genesis 17:3. What does this teach us about who God is, who how we should respond to him?	ve are, and
God tells Abram, "Walk before me, and be blameless." What do you think he meant by that? Look up the following verses from Eand see if you can distill God's goal for his followers concerning their "walk" (Ephesians 4:1, 17; 5:2, 8, 15). What are some words used describe a life of faithful obedience? How can you walk with God blamelessly this week?	
 I am no longer walking the way many non-Christians walk (Ephesians 4:17) Dissatisfied −1−2−3−4−5− Satisfied (Circle a number) 	
 I am walking in the light (Ephesians 5:8) Dissatisfied -1 -2 -3 -4 -5 - Satisfied (Circle a number) 	

Genesis 12 and 17 have some parallels worth noting. Look at the table below and compare the commands, promise, and response in both chapters. It seems to indicate that the Lord's pledge of promise is accompanied with a call to obedient faith.

GENESIS 12	GENESIS 17	
Command (v. 1) "go"	Command (v. 1) "walk"	
Command (v. 2) "be a blessing"	Command (v. 1) "be blameless"	
Promise (v. 2) "great nation"	Promise (v. 2) "multiply you greatly"	
Response (v. 4) "so Abram went"	Response (v. 3) "Abram fell on his face"	

Name three promises that God has made to you.

Are you living in obedient faith as a recipient of those promises?

In (Genesis 17:18) Abraham says to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!" In other words, Abraham was putting Ishmael forward to be the one who would fulfill the plan of God. But the Lord's response in (v. 19) was, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him"		
Put yourself in Abraham's place. For 13 years he set his hope on Ishmael. Now everything is changing. How did Abi you react?	ram react (Genesis 17:17-18)? How would	
When God suddenly changes a situation you thought was secure, how should we respond?		
Why did God choose Isaac over Ishmael? Look up Romans 9:6-16 for help answering this question.		
In the ancient world, the right to name something or someone indicated rule or ownership. God demo by changing his name and requiring circumcision.	nstrated ownership of Abraham's life	
Look up these passages on name changes (Isaiah 62:2; 65:15; Revelations 2:17). What do they tell you about people	under the New Covenant?	
What does God's ownership of a believer's life look like today? How does God display ownership of your life?		
Covenants were often accompanied by signs and symbols of remembrance. In (Genesis 9:13) the coverage sign of the In our present text, the Abrahamic covenant was marked by the sign of sign of the New Covenant according to Jesus in (Matthew 26:27-28)?		
Some people think that is the sign of the New Covenant because of (Colossians 2:11-14). Is the YES NO (Circle one). What kind of circumcision is it talking about? Look up the following verse 4:4; Romans 2:28-29). It is clearly talking about a spiritual circumcision and it is paralleled with a spiritual baptism, be salvation (1Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27).	es to help you (Deuteronomy 30:6; Jeremiah	
In the case of Abraham, why is it important for us that God commanded circumcision after, and as a sign of, faith and 4:9-12)?	·	
What implications does that have for our understanding of the efficacy of signs and symbols observed by the church today?	PRAYER REQUESTS	
Read Genesis 17:23, 26. What do you learn about Abraham that is a good example for us to follow? What are some areas of your life where God is spurring you to respond this way?		
The sign of the covenant with Abraham was circumcision. Some wonder if that is still something that should be practiced amongst believing men today.		
Take time to read the account of the first church council in Jerusalem in Acts 15. Pay specific attention to the conclusion (Acts 15:28-29). What did the church understand from the Holy Spirit?		
What do the following verses contribute to the discussion of the necessity of circumcision today (1 Corinthians 7:19; Galatians 5:6; 6:15)?		
The painful, bloody rite of circumcision is no longer required for believers today. Christ fulfilled both the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants (Matthew 5:17-18) through the shedding of his precious blood once for all. He ended the bloody rites and sacrifices of prior covenants and established a New Covenant (Matthew 26:27-28). The old was fulfilled and eclipsed by the new. Give praise to Jesus!		