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)?

	Sarah (Genesis 18:9-15)	Mary (Luke 1:26-38)
enturie npossil	s later, a virgin named Mary would receive an annunciation of the ple for a virgin to conceive and bear a son. Both ladies received mpare and contrast the ladies' response to the humanly impose	an impossible promise, but they did not initially respond the same sible news in the table below.
	What warning is given in connection to hospitality in (1Peter 4:9) they were struggling in this way?	? What kind of thoughts would go through a person's mind if
•	What are some practical suggestions you can share with your study hospitality lessons that you have learned along the way?	group that would enhance "hospitality" in our everyday lives? What are some
		say things like "I just don't have a nice home to entertain in." Or, "I'm not a u think of these statements? Would you be considered a hospitable person
		elder/pastor? Look up (Hebrews 13:2). Is hospitality a hat text suggest as a motivation for demonstrating love for strangers?
ifferent	n reserve the expressions of our love for those we know we direction. The term actually means, "love for strangers." It is the Where do we see a demonstration of hospitality in Genesis 18?	ell and care about deeply. But the word "hospitality" guides us in a e friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests and
	In (James 2:23; Isaiah 41:8) Abraham is referred to as thecase before the incarnation in which the Lord ate food set before him	of God. This meal that the Lord shares with Abraham is the only m. Perhaps friendship was affirmed in that special meal.
•	the treaty with Abimelech in (Genesis 26:28-30). We see it in the me	Id be met and mutual fellowship would be enjoyed over food. We see this in ssage to the church ofin (Revelation 3:20). We see this (Matthew 26:26-30), and ultimately we will see it in the (Revelation 19:7).
	In the ancient near eastern culture sharing a meal and staying in son might those signal favors from God have been significant in Abrahar	neone's dwelling place was a sign of peace, fellowship, and relationship. How n and Sarah's life?
•	Who do you think was the primary focus of this second announcement	ent?

(Genesis 17:1)? How do (Mark 10:27; Jeremiah 32:17) contribute to your understanding of this God?

	What are some seemingly impossible things in your life that you have to trust El Shaddai for?		
•	When you think about human impossibilities, what temptations or tendencies do you have to battle against in order to trust God and walk by faith not sight?		
Faith sees the invisible, hears the inaudible, touches the intangible, and accomplishes the impossible. If the only knowledge we had of Sarah was the Genesis account, we would conclude that she was a woman without such faith. She at the promise of God (Genesis 18:12). She took matters into her own hands by persuading Abraham to have a son by her maid (Genesis 16:1-4). She knew she was barren and that's what she rested in at least from what we see in Genesis. But if we look at (Hebrews 11:11-12; 1 Peter 3:3-6) what do we find out about Sarah?			
	Do these New Testament verses surprise you? YES NO (circle one) Why or why not?		
•	What do you think happened between Sarah's doubtful laugh (Genesis 18:12) and the faith recorded in (Hebrews 11:11-12)?		
•	What do you think happened between Sarah's manipulative dominance of her husband in (Genesis 16:1-4) and the submission and hope in God recorded in (1Peter 3:3-6)?		
•	What does such a change in Sarah – a deep-rooted character change – cause you to think of in your own it provide for others?	n life and circumstance? What hope does	
(Proverbs 28:13) says, "Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy." How do you think this verse relates to the story of Sarah, her laughter, and her lie (Genesis 18:12-15)?			
•	Why is God's rebuke in (Genesis 18:15) a sign of his kindness? How has God's rebuke been a blessing in your life? Be prepared to share an example with the group.		
•	What other passages confirm the kindness of correction and the significance of confession in the life of a believer?	PRAYER REQUESTS	
•	Is the humility of confession something that describes the regular pattern of your life? YES NO (circle one) If not, what needs to change?		
In Genesis 18 we see a married couple where the husband and wife were not at the same place in their spiritual growth and maturity. Abraham seems to have accepted the promise of God whereas Sarah was wavering in unbelief. What should the spiritually stronger partner do if their spouse is lagging behind?			
•	According to (1Peter 3:1-7) how should an unequal spiritual status affect the roles in a marriage?		
•	If you are behind your spouse in your spiritual journey what steps can you prayerfully take in the months ahead? If you are spiritually ahead of your spouse, what steps can you prayerfully take in the months ahead?		
•	God was so good not to just let Sarah come along for the ride. Up until this point in the story she had only received second hand retellings of what God had said to her husband. But she couldn't simply clasp his coattails of faith. What was the significant change that occurred in Genesis 18? And then what do we know happened according to (Hebrews 11:11)?		