

We increasingly live in an age where waiting is foreign to our expectations. From fast food to instant messaging we have come to expect an immediate response. We are a people impatient with delay. In Acts 1, Jesus told the apostles to wait for the gift he had promised. In Genesis, Abraham learned to wait for the fulfillment of God's promise. This study is an overview of part of the life of Abram, later Abraham. (Genesis 17 tells of God changing Abram and Sarai's names to Abraham and Sarah.) We will look at the LORD's call on Abram's life, the consequences of not waiting on God and the fulfillment of that promise in God's miraculous way. Abraham waited 25 years for the fulfillment of the promise. God's plan is for us to join him in what he is doing, not the other way around. Pray that the Lord would give us a discerning spirit to see what he is doing and then step out in faith. As we learned last week, the day is not won through my wisdom or abilities, but through the Spirit of God working through me.

## Read Genesis 12:1-9:

### 1. In verses 1, 4-5:

- a. What might these verses indicate about Abram's relationship with God?
- b. Discuss the evidence of faith and trust.
- c. How old was Abram?
- d. Who did he take with him?
- e. What was his destination? (vs1)
- f. Discuss what it would mean to you, what would you feel, if God asked you to go to a land he would show you. Does this effect what you think about Abram?

### 2. In verses 2,3:

- a. Discuss God's promise to Abram?
- b. Note how others will be impacted by the way they treat Abram.
- c. Did Abram have a son at the time of the promise? Considering his age, what would your reaction be to the promise.

### 3. In verses 6-9:

- a. The land that God showed Abram was not unoccupied. Who did the land belong to? What would have to happen for this land to become Abraham's?
- b. How do these verses testify to the closeness of the relationship Abram had with the LORD?
- c. What example is there for us to follow?

## Read Genesis 15:1-6:

1. In this passage of scripture we want to note a couple of points:
  - a. What continued to be the problem Abram faced?
  - b. What was the LORD's promise?
  - c. Discuss the meaning of verse 6.

## Read Genesis 16:1-15

It is hard to be patient and allow God to work on his timetable. We want to see results now. In this passage we will see the consequence of not waiting on God.

1. How long had Abram been waiting for the LORD to fulfill His promise?
2. What was Sarai's solution?
3. What was the impact of that decision:
  - a. On the relationship between Sarai and Abram?
  - b. On the relationship between Sarai and Hagar?
4. Discuss the significance of verses 9 and 10.
5. Discuss the relationship Ishmael would have with those around him. When we step outside the will of God, we have no idea what the long term impact of our actions will be.

## Read Genesis 21:1-7.

The fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham. What is impossible for man is possible for God. Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old when Isaac was born.

1. What encouragement can we take from verse one?
2. Imagine the joy in that household. All of the heartache of the past is as nothing compared to the joy God brought to them in their old age.

**Summary:** We have seen in the life of Abraham that God always keeps his promise. He works on his timetable not ours. There is a consequence to not waiting on God and moving ahead on our own. God gave Abraham specific instructions that he was to follow. As Abraham was faithful in following the LORD, the promise that was made to him was fulfilled.

**For Reflection:** Abram was chosen by the LORD. He was 75 years old when God made his promise and 100 years old when the promise was fulfilled. As a child of God, I have been chosen by God. Am I being faithful in living a life that will bring glory to God? Do I try to come up with my solutions, or am I waiting patiently for God to make a way and provide as only he can? What lessons can I apply from today's study that will result in a closer walk with my Saviour?