

God Affirms His Covenant and Promise of Isaac

Genesis 17:1-18:15

Read Genesis 17:1-14, 23-27.

God confirms His covenant with Abraham.

- What does God's new name help Abraham understand about God?
- What do you learn about the Lord from His appearance to Abraham?

Principle: God helps us trust His impossible promises.

Read Genesis 17:15-22.

God promised Sarah she would have Isaac within the year.

- How would the details in verses 17-19 help Abraham and Sarah no longer doubt, but trust God?
- Where do you need to trust God's promise beyond what is possible?

Principle: God preserves faith and trust in Him.

Read Genesis 18.

The Lord appeared and reaffirmed His promise of Isaac's birth.

- What did Sarah hear, and how did she respond?
- What did Sarah have to believe? How is this the same for every believer today?

Principle: God's people act on God's promises by faith.

Review Genesis 17:1-18:15.

- How did this week's Scripture passage impact your thinking about trusting God's promises?

Main truth: God helps us trust Him in our doubts.

Scripture Memory Verse

"I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you." – Genesis 17:7

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Exploring the Christian Faith

An Attribute of God

from this week's passage

Preserver

When we trust Christ, we can know that God will continue the good work He started in us. God preserves our lives for His purpose, and He preserves our salvation. Jesus promised that no one can take you out of God's hand. No temptation, no failure, no person, not even Satan can cause God's children to lose their salvation. God preserves us so He will accomplish His purpose for us because He is our preserver.

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A Basic Truth of the Christian Faith

Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

Because Jesus is God, He is infinite and holy. His blood can pay the penalty for an infinite number of sins.¹ On the cross, Jesus was able to suffer the eternal punishment and separation from God that our sin deserves.² Therefore, everyone who trusts Christ can know that He paid for all of their sins.³

John 1:29¹; Matthew 27:46²; Romans 8:1³

Think About It

Did Jesus stop being God when He became a man?

Jesus did not stop being God when He left heaven. In humility, He fully submitted Himself to His Father, to do His will. While Jesus was a man, His full glory from eternity past was hidden. He did not exercise His divine power, except by His Father's will (Philippians 2:6-8). Because He loved us, Jesus willingly laid aside His glory to take the limitations of a human body, yet never sinned. At the Transfiguration, Jesus' glory shone through His humanity (Matthew 17:1-13).

Is Jesus just as powerful as God?

God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit are equally God. They share all the same attributes and power. Their roles are different but they always work together, with one mind and will in all things (1 Peter 1:2).

If Jesus is God, how could God forsake Him on the cross?

Because God exists in three persons God the Father could punish sin through God the Son. We do not fully understand all that happened on the cross. But we know the sky grew dark and the earth shook as Jesus took all the sins of the world upon Himself. It was at this time Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). We also know that Jesus fully satisfied God's righteous anger against sin, because He declared, "It is finished" (John 19:30). He then committed His spirit into His Father's hands (Luke 23:46).

To learn more Basic Truths of the Christian Faith, visit mybsf.org.