

JESUS IN GENESIS

SEASON 2

JESUS IN GENESIS - SEASON 2: GENESIS 18:1-33

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE - WEEK OF MAY 23, 2021

Introduction:

- Who you are on the inside is revealed when you are caught off guard. God catches Abraham and Sara off guard in order to test their character. The text shows God to be a friend to those who receive Him, trust Him and deal with Him honestly, but a judge to those who reject Him, laugh at Him and continue in disobedience.
- Through the exchange between God and Abraham about Sodom, the text further displays the kind of mindset and compassion that we should have for those who do not yet love God. We should intercede on behalf of the lost like Abraham and Christ.

1. God Tests Abraham's Love

- v1-8: Abraham's reception of the men at the time of day when people would typically rest reveals where he is in his faith. He is shown to have a circumcised heart, as he is willing to receive this seemingly random group of travelers and offer them generous hospitality. He shows a willingness to be inconvenienced and to sacrifice for these men before he finds out that one man is the Lord Jesus Christ and two are angels.
- The kind of hospitality that Abraham shows, in which he shows sacrificial love to strangers, is encouraged throughout scripture (Heb. 13:1-2, Rev. 3:20, Mth. 25:25, 1 Pet. 4:9). Christians should be prepared to randomly receive and extend kindness to the random people, image-bearers of God Himself, that God places in their lives.
- v9-11: Romans 4:18-22 tells us that Abraham believed the message that the three men had for him.

2. God Tests Sarah's Faith

- The men reveal themselves to be the LORD Jesus Himself and two angels when they go against cultural norms to ask about Abraham's wife, call her by her new name and reveal that Sarah laughed when the LORD said that she would have a son in a year.
- Abraham believed the promise of a son, but Sarah didn't. Her laughter reveals a heart of cynicism toward God and His word. She presented herself as righteous on the outside, but was laughing at God's word on the inside.
- God brings His followers to such points before following through on His promises...
 - ✦ ...in order to glorify Himself, by making it clear that He needed to intervene to carry out the promise (instead of letting us accomplish it in our own strength).
 - ✦ ...in order to make their faith stronger
 - ✦ ...to reveal lingering cynicism during the process of waiting.
- Believers should follow God's model while raising their own children in order to show them their need to rely on God's power, to grow their faith and develop resilience to walk forward in a faithful manner.
- Heb. 11:11-12 shows that Sarah learned to trust God and His word.

3. God Tests Abraham's Love

- On the 4th occasion that God speaks with Abraham, the focus of the conversation switches from Abraham's life and God's covenant promises to him to how Abraham will interact with the lost around him. Ultimately, he intercedes for them before God and prays for them.
- v16-19: The LORD loops Abraham in on His plans to go to Sodom and Gomorrah like He would a friend. As a sinner, who has blatantly missed the mark on many occasions in life, Abraham can only have such a relationship with God by grace. Abraham knew he didn't deserve God's love and so should we.
- v20-21: Gen. 15:16 reveals that God relents from pouring out his wrath in order to allow people to repent. Sodom and Gomorrah have reached the point of no return after such a period, which is why they are condemned to imminent destruction. We need to think about the kind of cry going up from our land, and pursue repentance. If we don't, it's not a matter of "if" God will bring due destruction, but "when."
- v22-33: Abraham's intercession for Sodom reveals that he trusts God's promises and anticipates that he will be a blessing to the nations. Furthermore, Abraham's intercession for large numbers of people (greater than the number in Lot's family) suggests that he cares about the city and not just Lot and his family. Abraham's heart is captured by God and for His image-bearers.
- Abraham's haggling with God to save people in Sodom appeals to both God's love and holiness. How can God maintain His holiness and justice while being merciful to those whom he chooses to love? The answer is in the person of Jesus Christ. Abraham here foreshadows the one who is going to come and intercede, and that's the true and final son of the promises given to Abraham, Jesus Christ. Jesus becomes God incarnate,

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand the kind of love that we should have for God and the lost around us.

Heart

To receive God's word and promises with gladness and thankfulness.

Hands

To regularly intercede on behalf of the lost people in our lives before our Heavenly Father.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kids' Summer Nights: Registration is now open for kids ages 4-11 to attend our free, weeklong VBS program this summer! You can register your child(ren) or sign up to volunteer [here](#).

The next **Membership 101 Class** will be on **May 30 at 1PM**. RSVP to admin@mosaicboston.com if you plan to attend.

Please remind covenant members to fill out their **membership covenant recommitment** (link available on their email).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

lives the perfect life and offers it as a sacrifice on behalf of all the Sodomites (and Bostonites) whom He chooses to save. He bears the due wrath of all those who trust in Him, and as a result of faith they receive forgiveness of sins, life as adopted children and friends of God, power to fight sin, and eternal life in heaven. (See 1 John 2:1, 1 Tim. 2:5, Romans 8:34, Heb. 7:25.)

- Those in Christ need to lead lives of worship and thankfulness in response to Christ's intercession. Those not in Christ need to repent of their cynical laughter and mocking spirit toward God.

Read Genesis 18:1-33

1. Can someone take a moment to summarize key points of the sermon?
2. What is notable about the hospitality that Abraham offered to the “three men”?
3. Why are Christians called to be hospitable (even to strangers)?
4. When is the last time that you practiced hospitality?
5. Abraham laughs in Genesis 17:17. Sarah laughs in Genesis 18:12-15. What is the difference between the laughter of Sarah and the laughter of Abraham?
6. Are there any parts of God’s word that you have often laughed at/scoffed at/mockd throughout your life like Sarah? Has your heart changed in these areas?
7. God waited until Abraham was in his 90s and Sarah in her 80s before blessing them with the pregnancy of Isaac. Why does God often make his followers wait until such moments before carrying out His promises?
8. The LORD speaks about His plans to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of the “outcry” that is coming from the land. What kind of outcry do you think is coming from our land?
9. What does Abraham’s intercession for Sodom reveal about his general attitude for the “lost” in his land?
10. What is the source of Abraham’s compassion for the lost sinners around him?