

Cultivate Genesis Study
Chapter 18

Read and meditate on Genesis Chapter 18 this week
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class.

Read Genesis 18:1-8

Gen 18:1 The **Lord appeared** to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre... The term is Yahweh, the tetragrammaton (YHWH) of the Old Testament---the covenant name by which God would introduce Himself to Moses. Yehovah – self Existent or Eternal, Jehovah, Jewish national name of **God**.

From Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary

"Abraham was waiting to entertain any weary traveller, for inns were not to be met with as among us. While Abraham was thus sitting, he saw three men coming. These were three heavenly beings in human bodies. Some think they were all created angels; others, that one of them was the Son of God, the Angel of the covenant. Washing the feet is customary in those hot climates, where only sandals are worn. We should not be forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares, Heb 13:2; nay, the Lord of angels himself; as we always do, when for his sake we entertain the least of his brethren."

Abraham allowed the unexpected to "interrupt" his day and immediately acts to meet their needs.

1. Can you recall a time when the unexpected "interrupted" your day? What blessings, spiritually and physically speaking, were a result of your heart being attentive to the Lord's leading?

2. Search scripture verses on hospitality. Do you practice the gift of hospitality?

Christian hospitality differs from social entertaining.

Read Luke 10:38-42

3. Based on this account, what do you think is the difference between showing hospitality and entertaining?

Read Genesis 18:9-15

In vs.10 God confirms His promise to Abraham that He would “certainly return” at the appointed time with power to bring life from a dead womb! And that proceeding from a man well advanced in years. I love the question put to Abraham in vs. 14, *“Is anything too hard for the LORD?”*

4. Have you seen God move in a situation you thought impossible? Please share the “impossible” things God has done in your midst.

The Lord knew Sarah would conceive. Psalm 139:16

Psalm 139 tells us how completely God knows us. And there is no where we can hide from His presence. David ends the Psalm by letting go of his life and asking God to lead him in the way everlasting.

5. Why do you think Sarah would laugh? Why did God call her out on it?

Read Psalm 139:4 and Genesis 21:6

Read Genesis 18:16-21

After Abraham's obedience in his part of the covenant, by the circumcision of himself, Ishmael and all his male servants; he had a more intimate relationship with the Lord. And God revealed His plan for the judgment on Sodom. He chose to reveal what He was about to do just as we would confide in a true friend.

Read James 4:8, Psalm 73:28, Psalm 145:18

Abraham is the only person in Scripture described with the phrase, 'friend of God'.

Read 2Chronicles 20:7, Isaiah 41:8, James 2:23.

6. What can we do in our walk with the Lord to be a closer 'friend of God'?

In John 15:14,15 Jesus said, *"You are My friends if you do what I command you. [15](#)"No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you."*

7. Search your Bible for the word 'obey' and choose 3 verses that speak to you personally.

Read Genesis 18:22-33

God visited Abraham, partly to let him in on the process of determining His judgement and partly to get him involved in intercession. God wanted Abraham to be a part of the process through prayer.

Abraham intercedes prayerfully for Sodom. He was most likely concerned for Lot and his family, as he continued to ask of God, until He agreed to relent for just 10 righteous people.

He was always mindful of who He was talking to. He knew God to be merciful and was pleading with that in mind. Of course, he left the final decision to God and knew He would be just. What a beautiful heart of prayer.

Abraham like David lets go of his own desires and concerns to the righteous judge, the creator of heaven and earth.

Read John 15:7 and then about:

Moses' intercession Exodus 32:11-13, Psalm 106:23

David request for intercession in Psalm 122:6

Jesus' intercession Hebrews 7:25, Romans 8:34, Luke 22:32

As evil continues to increase in our world, we can take some solace realizing that in this 'church age' there are many of us who are righteous- because of what our Savior did for us on the cross. The Lord listens to our prayers. How much time do you take praying for the lost? Do you believe it makes a difference?

8. With the truth of 2 Peter 3:9, and 1 Timothy 2:4 in mind, that God desires none to perish but that all come to repentance, who are you praying for?

Do not forget intercessory prayers for your pastors and elders, political leaders, police and military, and missionaries.

From Effective Prayer Life by Pastor Chuck Smith

Man of Prayer.

"What constitutes a man of prayer? First, he prays about everything—little things as well as big things. Oftentimes, we're reluctant to pray about the little things because we're afraid to bother God with trivia. He's so busy running the universe that He doesn't need to help me in the small areas of my life. But Jesus said that our heavenly Father is conscious of the sparrow falling to the ground. How much more is He conscious of our every need? (Luke 12:6–7). The Bible also commands, "In every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:6). If you really love someone, it doesn't matter how often he calls or what he calls about, you're just glad to hear from him. God loves you so much, He doesn't care how trivial your need might be. He just loves to hear from you."