

GOD'S SIGNS
GENESIS 17:1-14
2/22/26

I. GOD SPEAKS

Genesis 17:1-2 - "When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless,² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.'"

A. Who He is

1. "El Shaddai" – The Almighty and all sufficient God
2. He doesn't need us to fulfill His promises

B. What He instructs

1. "Walk before me, and be blameless"
2. A relationship with God requires our obedience to Him
 - a. Because of who He is
 - b. Because we are unable to accomplish the promise

II. ABRAM'S RESPONSE

Genesis 17:3a - "Then Abram fell on his face...."

A. "Fell on his face" – Prostrate

B. Abram is confronted with who God is and it humbles him

III. GOD'S SIGNS

A. Name change

Genesis 17:4-8 - "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you.⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.⁸ And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."

1. Displayed God's supremacy over Abram
2. Reminder of the covenant blessing

B. Circumcision

Genesis 17:9-14 - "And God said to Abraham, 'As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.¹⁰ This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised.¹¹ You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.¹² He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring,¹³ both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant.¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.'"

1. It marked them as God's covenant people
2. It was a serious sign of faith

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is one thing that stood out to you or challenged your thinking from the message this week?
2. Abraham forgot who God was and it led him to take matters into his own hands in (Chapter16). Have you ever felt like God's promises were distant and unattainable in your life? Explain the time? How did you overcome this? What are some ways that we can remind ourselves of who God is and cultivate our understanding of Him, so we don't forget Him in our trials?
3. When Abraham circumcised his family, he was marking them as God's people. How do we help our families identify themselves with God today?
4. Circumcision was a very serious and sensitive act that demonstrated that Abraham's faith in God governed every area of his life. What are some areas that we struggle to give control over to God? Why?
5. God displayed ownership over Abraham's life by changing his name and circumcising him. These were physical signs of God's supremacy. How can the world (Co-workers, neighbors, friends, family) see God's ownership and supremacy in your life?
6. What is one thing from the group or the message that you want to live out this week? How can the group help you do that?

GOD'S PROMISE THIS WEEK

- This week in Genesis 17:1 God promises to be "El Shaddai" our almighty and all sufficient God. This means that He does not need us to fulfill His promises because He is able to do it for us. We are insufficient to do the work, so we rely upon God's sufficiency as El Shaddai. This is most clearly seen in our sin. It makes us insufficient and El Shaddai provides Jesus to be our sufficiency.
(2 Corinthians 9:8)
 - Why is it important for us to know this special name of God?
 - How does it help us as we live today in 2026?