

## IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR GOD?

GENESIS 17:15-18:15

3/1/26

### I. SCENE 1 – ABRAHAM & GOD

#### A. Response – Laughter

Genesis 17:17 - “Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, ‘Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?’”

##### 1. There is an easier way

Genesis 17:18 - “And Abraham said to God, ‘Oh that Ishmael might live before you!’”

- Abrahams’s way was built on his ability

##### 2. God’s truth – “I will establish my covenant”

Genesis 17:19-21 - “God said, ‘No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. <sup>20</sup>As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation.<sup>21</sup> But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year.”

#### B. Conclusion – Obedience

Genesis 17:22-27 - “When he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.<sup>23</sup> Then Abraham took Ishmael his son and all those born in his house or bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very day, as God had said to him. <sup>24</sup>Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. <sup>25</sup>And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. <sup>26</sup>That very day Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised. <sup>27</sup>And all the men of his house, those born in the house and those bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.”

##### 1. Conveyed Abraham’s faith in God

### II. SCENE 2 – ABRAHAM, SARAH & GOD

#### A. Response – Laughter

Genesis 18:12 - “So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, ‘After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?’”

##### 1. This way is too hard

- Sarah could only see her limitations

##### 2. God’s truth

Genesis 18:13-14 - “The Lord said to Abraham, ‘Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ <sup>14</sup>Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.’”

- “Is anything too hard for God?”

## **B. Conclusion – Lie**

*Genesis 18:15 - “But Sarah denied it, saying, ‘I did not laugh,’ for she was afraid. He said, “No, but you did laugh.”*

### **1. Conveyed Sarah’s lack of faith in God**

*Hebrews 11:1 - “By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.”*

*Luke 1:37 - “For nothing will be impossible with God.”*

## **COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What is one thing from the message this week that stood out or challenged your thinking?
2. Abraham’s faith was demonstrated in his obedience to God’s commands. What are some things that God commands our obedience in?
3. How have we, like Abraham, offered God our solutions to problems instead of seeking Him? What does this say about our faith?
4. Share with the group a time when you felt like the situation you were in was “impossible”. How did God show up in that situation?
5. Sarah was blinded by her human limitations. What are some ways that we can learn to overcome our human limitations to what God can do?
6. Did Sarah’s doubt and denial thwart God’s plan? How does it encourage you knowing that God continued to work through Sarah even though she doubted Him?
7. What is one thing from the message or the group this week that you want to live out this week? How can the group help you do that?

## **GOD’S PROMISE THIS WEEK**

- God’s promise is veiled in His question to Sarah, “Is there anything too hard for the Lord?”. The promise that rises from that question is that there is NOTHING too hard for God in this life.
  - Describe a situation in your life that has felt “too big”? How did God work to bring you through that situation?
  - When God brings us faithfully to the other side of situations...how does it encourage our faith? What should be our response to God when He faithfully brings us through difficulties?