

Life Group Study  
Genesis 17

1. Read Genesis 17 together if you have time otherwise have the Bible open for reference.
2. Opening Question: Did you have a nickname growing up or have one today? How did you get it, and did it fit your personality?
3. **Faith listens — Genesis 17:1–3.** God introduces himself as “God Almighty” before calling Abraham to walk before him and be blameless. Why does knowing who God is matter for what God asks Abraham to do? How might remembering God’s character change the way you face a difficult situation?
4. **A future built on God’s promise — Genesis 17:4–8, 15–16.** God gives Abraham and Sarah new names before they see the fulfillment of his promises. What would those names remind them of while they waited? What tends to shape your outlook most: your circumstances or what God has said?
5. **Faith is more than positive thinking — Romans 4:19–21.** The sermon distinguishes trusting God’s promises from simply believing things will work out the way we want. What is the difference? How can we recognize when we are treating a personal desire as though it were a promise from God?
6. **Faith receives a sign — Genesis 17:9–14.** What did circumcision communicate about belonging to God and taking his covenant seriously? What stands out about God including infants and people outside Abraham’s biological family?

7. **Assurance points us to Christ — Colossians 2:11–14.** The sermon connects the covenant sign with Christ's saving work and baptism. How does this passage direct our attention to what God has done for us? When you become aware of your sin, what helps you turn toward Christ rather than trying to earn your way back into God's favor?
8. **Faith brings its questions to God — Genesis 17:17–18.** Abraham laughs and asks God to let Ishmael live before him. What do his responses reveal about the difficulty of trusting this promise? How can we be honest with God about our doubts while remaining willing to follow him?
9. **Faith releases control — Genesis 17:19–22.** God insists that his covenant will be established with Isaac, while also hearing Abraham's concern for Ishmael. What does this reveal about God's faithfulness and care? Where might you be asking God to bless your existing plan instead of allowing his Word to guide you?
10. **Faith obeys — Genesis 17:23–27.** Abraham obeys "that very day," before the promised son arrives. What does his response teach us about the relationship between faith and obedience? Where are you tempted to delay a clear step of obedience until you feel more certain?
11. **Putting faith into practice — Romans 4:23–25.** Our hope rests in the God who raised Jesus from the dead. How does what God has already done in Jesus strengthen your trust today? Name one truth from Scripture you need to remember this week and one specific step of obedience you can take in response.
12. **Closing prayer:** Share prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.