

ISRAEL & PALESTINE

DR. SANJAY MERCHANT



NOV 26

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NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT: Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER: Have you ever made a promise that has never been broken?

BACKGROUND

God called Abram at the age of 75 to leave Haran to go to the country that the Lord would show him, promising to make of him a great nation. Though God had promised Abram the land of the Canaanites, there was a great famine forcing his family into Egypt. Sometime later Pharaoh sent Abram and his family out of Egypt along with many possessions that they had gained while in the land. After surviving the famine, Abram and his nephew Lot separated because their herds were too large. Lot took what he saw was the better land while Abram took the other land. While Lot was tending his herds, he was kidnapped by the kings of the neighboring nations along with all his possessions. After hearing from one of Lot's servants who escaped, Abram went out and fought the kings to get his nephew back. After the battle, Melchizedek, Priest of the Most High God, blessed Abram with bread and wine and Abram gave him one tenth of everything he had.

After these things, God came to Abram in a dream and told him that he would be blessed with a great many children, as numerous as the stars, and made a covenant with him. Abram believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness. Sometime later after Sarai had been unable to bear children, she convinced him to take her servant Hagar as a wife, and she bore him a child. God made his covenant with Abram who he called Abraham because he would be father of many. As a sign, Abraham's descendants would be circumcised. The Lord kept His promise even in Abram and Sarai's old age by blessing her with their child and changing her name to Sarah. Their son Isaac would carry the covenant of the Lord to the next generations.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?

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KEY VERSE: Genesis 15:5

And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

READ: Genesis 17:15-22



HEAD LEVEL: These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.

1. Who was Ishmael? Who was his mother (Genesis 16:1-4)?
2. Who was Issac? Who was his mother (Genesis 17:19)?
3. What was Abraham's response to being told Sarah would bear him a son (Genesis 17:17-18)?

DEEPER DISCOVERY

- Look at the following passages and compare the promises of the Lord to Abraham, Sarah, Ishmael, and Issac. How are they all connected?
 - Genesis 12:1-3
 - Genesis 15:18-20
 - Genesis 17:15-16
 - Genesis 16:10-12
 - Genesis 17:19-21



HEART LEVEL: These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

1. Why do you think Abraham and Sarai became impatient after such a great promise from God that He would give them children?
2. God blessed Ishmael because of Abraham's love for him. How do you think this affected the history of Israel in the years to come?

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HANDS LEVEL: These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

1. How do we take our knowledge of God's covenant with Abraham and apply it to how we live under the new covenant today?
2. How are we called to walk out life with those we know that are most effected by the current state of Israel?



MEMORY VERSE: Genesis 17:3-4

Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations."

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)