

Walk

Genesis 17:1–14

(black Bibles page 11; Children's Bibles page 31)

A significant name change:

- From Abram, which means “exalted father,” to Abraham, which means “father of a multitude.” Abraham will be father of a multitude *of nations* (17:5)
- Question: what does this have to do with what happened in chapter 16? Well, Abram just became a Dad...

“Walk before me.” (17:1)

- So much of your life is spent walking, so it is a great image of your entire life, as well as your *everyday* life.
- Plus, walking reveals where you want to go, and why.

But how? And how do we today begin the walk now that Christ has come?

[1] *Fall on your face.*

- Literally. See 17:3.
- Why? “I am God Almighty.” (17:1)
- What might stop you from falling on your face before God?

[2] *Mark your body.*

- Literally. Circumcision, see 17:10.
- Is this like receiving a tattoo today?

- Why circumcision? What does it symbolize?
 - Consider: the Lord “cut” a covenant with Abram (15:18; literal Hebrew), but now any uncircumcised male will be “cut off” from God’s people (17:14).
- *From circumcision to baptism.* Now that Jesus has come circumcision is not necessary, but he commanded baptism instead (Matthew 28:18-20; see also Colossians 2:11-12, Acts 15:1-21, Galatians 5:6).
- Baptism really is one of the important first steps in the walk!
 - Consider the response to the first Christian sermon: “*Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” (Acts 2:37-39)*
- What does baptism symbolize?

Final thoughts and applications

Community Group Discussion questions

- [1] In Chapter 16, Abram and Sarai came up with a plan to have a son. It worked, although it triggered some severe relational difficulties. How does our passage today appropriately follow that story?
- [2] Abram fell on his face before the Lord Almighty. You probably have not seen the Lord like he did, but have you reacted similarly to the Lord in your own life?
- [3] How is Abraham’s circumcision different than an American getting a tattoo today? How is baptism similar and different to circumcision?
- [4] Consider a man walking to the grocery store. We know where he’s going and why. We can see his clear intention. Is your life before God? Is it a walk with clear intention?