**“The Blessings of God’s Friendship”**

**Genesis 18**

* **Blessing #1: Intimacy. Read Genesis 18:1-8.** In these verses, the LORD appears to Abraham. Abraham begs him to stay and even seeks to have a meal prepared. Pastor Jon touched on the importance of preparing our hearts to meet with God, and also cultivating our environment to assist in that. Do you notice a difference when you casually approach God as compared to preparing your heart first? How do you prepare your heart for worship and fellowship with Christ?
* Is there something that is regularly getting in the way of you preparing your heart to meet with God? What are some practical steps that you can take to better cultivate an environment that assists your heart in worship and intimacy with God? What does **Psalm 42:1** and **Psalm 73:25-26** teach us about the heart of a worshiper?
* **Blessing #2: Revelation. Read Genesis 18:9-21**. In this first few verses, God reveals (in the presence of Sarah) that Abraham and Sarah will have a child. Sarah’s response is to doubt God and laugh. God responds by asking, “*Is there anything too hard for God*?”. – Is there an area of need in your life that you currently are doubting God to provide? What does it look like for you to trust in the Lord in this season?
* **God mentions that He will give Sarah a child “at the appointed time”**. Why is it important to remember that God does everything “*at the appointed time*”? Have you ever wanted to do something good and right, but at the wrong time? How can we better align with God’s timeline rather than our own?
* **God reveals to Abraham his plans for destroying Sodom**. One of the blessings of being God’s friend is that we receive revelation from him. Read John 15:14-15. Is there any situations in which you need God to provide clarity and revelation? Has there ever been a time in which revealed things to you that you did not know before?
* **Often times, we can be slow to acknowledge the “friendship” aspect to our relationship with God, as compared to “Savior” or “Father”**. What are the benefits of God being your friend? And how should those benefits impact the way you live your life and interact with God?
* **Blessing #3: Influence. Read Genesis 18:20-33.** Abraham uses his influence and friendship with God to intercede on behalf of the righteous in Sodom. Being friends with God means that we have opportunities to come before him on behalf of others. Is intercession a regular aspect to your prayer life? Is there someone that you need to intercede on behalf of? Having you ever given up on interceding for someone? If so, why?

**Accountability:**

1. Is there something specific that you need to pray about, but haven’t due to doubt or discouragement?
2. When was the last time you declared the gospel to someone? Is there someone who you can share the gospel with this week?