

Focus Verse

“I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.” – Genesis 17:7

FIRST DAY: Read the notes and the references.

1. Use this space to record how you have seen God’s activity during the week. (How has He provided, answered, comforted, reconciled, guided, etc.?)
2. What is still unclear to you or continues to encourage you from the previous lesson?

SECOND DAY: Read Genesis 17:1-8.

God appeared before Abraham to confirm His covenant.

3. What do the details of the Lord’s appearance to Abraham and Abraham’s response tell about their relationship?
4. a. What does it mean to “be blameless” (17:1)? (Use a Bible dictionary for help.)

b. How could anyone accomplish God’s command to be blameless? (See Matthew 5:43-48; Philippians 2:13; 3:12, 15; Colossians 1:26-29 for insights.)
5. In verses 4-8, what does God promise to do that confirms His power to carry out His will?
6. What promises in the Bible apply to you, and do you trust God to keep them? Why or why not? (Share the verses to help your group learn more about God.)

THIRD DAY: Read Genesis 17:9-14; 23-27.

God commanded circumcision, and Abraham obeyed. Note: Circumcision is a physical sign of the old covenant. Circumcision is also a spiritual sign that sin is cut off so “the circumcised” can live a life of purity and integrity.

7. How did God relate the sign of circumcision to His covenant?
8. What does Abraham’s response in verses 23-27 suggest about him and his household?
9. What does Abraham show us about the right relationship between faith and works? (See Hebrews 11:8-12.)

FOURTH DAY: Read Genesis 17:15-22.

God promised Sarah she would bear Isaac within the year.

10. What similar words does God repeat about Sarah in this passage and about Abraham in 17:5-8?
11.
 - a. How do God's words show He wanted to prevent Abraham and Sarah from misinterpreting His meaning?
 - b. How does God distinguish between Isaac and Ishmael that prevents misunderstanding His will?
12. What steps do you take to avoid misinterpreting God's Word or misunderstanding His will?
13. Why might the phrase "by this time next year" have changed things for Abraham and Sarah?

FIFTH DAY: Read Genesis 18:1-15.

The Lord appeared and reaffirmed His promise of Isaac's birth.

14.
 - a. How might Abraham and Sarah's hospitality have differed in verses 1-8 if they were not sincerely grateful to serve?
 - b. What differences do you experience when you "have to" serve instead of when you "get to" serve?
15. How do the visitors' actions in verses 9-15 show the purpose for their arrival?
16. After she had laughed, how did Sarah know it was the Lord who had spoken?
17. What did Sarah have to believe? How is this the same for every believer today? (See Luke 1:45; Hebrews 11:6, 11.)

SIXTH DAY: Review Genesis 17:1-18:15.

18. How did this week's verses impact your thinking about trusting God's promises in what seems impossible?
19. Homiletics for group and administrative leaders: Genesis 17:1-18:15

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