

Our hope is that you were challenged by Sunday's message and would desire to take the study a little deeper. Whether for personal study, family study, or for a Home Group gathering, use this study to go deeper.

Open

November 5, 2017

Life can be difficult, therefore so is faith. It is often stretched, and believing God for all He has promised is not easy. We must remember that God delights in our search for Him and rewards us through it. (Hebrews 11.6)

Sometimes, however, we experience the other side of faith. Sometimes we see what we desire—divine provision, generous blessing, and answered prayer. We thank God for His grace. But do we ask Him what He wants to do next with our new-found confidence in His promises? Maybe He intends us to apply these faith gains for a greater challenge around the corner.

Main Point

In Genesis 21, we see God giving Abraham ample evidence that His promises will be fulfilled according to His word. It perfectly precedes the greatest faith test (Genesis 22) Abraham will face.

Read

Genesis 21:1-8; 22-34

Discuss

- At least 3x in the first two verses (21:1-2), "proof" statements are used. What are those statements and why such repetition?
- Abraham celebrated Isaac with a feast. How do we celebrate God's promises fulfilled in our lives? Is it adequate?
- Why is Abimelech motivated to maintain a close relationship with Abraham? What does He see?
- Abimelech and his commander are looking for a mutually beneficial relationship with Abraham. How does this fit God's covenant?
- How does answered prayer translate into any action steps? What do we do to build on our faith experiences from one day to the next? Share with others some ways you build up a foundation of trust.