

Abraham and Sarah

Genesis

1. Background

Abraham was the founding father of Israel. Originally called Abram, his name was changed because of his faith in God to reflect God's promise that he would be the father of many nations. After many years of waiting, his wife Sarah gave birth to a son, Isaac. Abraham believed in God and obeyed his commands. In time, because of his faithfulness, Abraham received many blessings from God.

Sarah was the wife of Abraham. Originally called Sarai, but her name was changed when God promised to make her the mother of many nations. Because of her advanced age and long history of infertility, Sarah laughed at God's promise to make her a mother, but God fulfilled God's promise and Sarah gave birth to her only son, Isaac.

2. Exploring the Text

Genesis 12:1-6

- God speaks to Abram and asks Abram to trust in God. What characteristics or observations help you decide who you should or shouldn't trust?
- In verse 3, we hear "in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." How do you see that promise lived out in the years since this promise was made?

Genesis 15:1-6

- God promises. Abram believes. God and Abram were in a right relationship. Years later, the Apostle Paul will look back on this moment as a key example of God's grace in action. Why do you think the sequence of events in this passage is significant for all God's people?

Genesis 18:1-15

- Abraham and Sarah offer hospitality to these strangers. What can we learn from ancient hospitality practices that might shape or improve today's world?
- The Lord speaks through these men to Abraham and Sarah to affirm the promises that from their descendants will come a great nation. How would you have responded if you were in Abraham and Sarah's shoes?

Genesis 21:1-7

- God fulfills God's promises to Abraham and Sarah. What are ways that you see God fulfilling God's promises today?