

## A Word from Kathy

*As I write this lesson, I have just packed away all the Christmas decorations, the house is quiet and the long awaited holiday has come and gone. Oh, the fun our family had being together, celebrating Jesus birth. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11*

*As we began several weeks ago making our holiday preparations, it felt so far away. We discussed our plans, the food we would eat, the time we would all gather, and even how the day would play out with all the activities and traditions. We played Christmas carols for weeks ahead of time and some wished it would arrive more quickly. Waiting on good things is never easy.*

*I can only imagine how Abram must have felt; waiting for the son that God had promised him. He has been waiting for 24 years at this point. He continues to believe all that God has said He will do. God reestablishes His covenant with Abram and gives him a sign of the covenant. This is a rich chapter; you won't want to miss any of it. **Pray and ask God to help you find each and every treasure He has for you.***

## Observation

1. How old is Abram in Genesis 17:1?  
How old was he when God called him in Genesis 12:4?  
How old was Abram when Ishmael was born? Gen. 16:16  
God desires for us to learn many things from Abram, we must pay attention to the details.
2. What is God called in Genesis 17:1?  
This is the first time in scripture God is referred to as El Shaddai.
3. We have seen God as Elohim, the \_\_\_\_\_ in Gen. 1:1-3.
4. We have seen God as El Elyon, the \_\_\_\_\_ in Gen. 14:17-22
5. We have seen God as El Roi, the \_\_\_\_\_ in Gen. 16:13
6. Underline or highlight in your Bible God's command to Abram, in Genesis 17:1.  
The word *blameless* is "Tamiym" in Hebrew and it means - sound, wholesome, unimpaired, innocent, having integrity.  
What is God saying to Abram?
7. In verses 2-8, God makes several declarative statements. What does God say he will do?  
It might help if you underline all the "I will" in these verses then go back and write your list.
8. What is Abram's response to God in verse 3?
9. What does Abram's position in vs. 3 reveal about his heart?
10. Take a red pen and underline in your Bible the words "My covenant" each time you see it in this chapter. Marking like this will help you see it all easily. What does God want Abram and us to know about this covenant? Who initiated this covenant?

Who is the One making the promises concerning this covenant?

Who is responsible to keep it?

For what period of time is this covenant? (you might want to underline this each time)

11. Who is specifically named as the parties in this covenant? Gen. 17:7, 8, 9, 10

If you like to mark the text in order to see it more clearly. Use a highlighter to mark the persons other than God & Abram that will be involved in this covenant. What is promised to them?

12. In verse 5, God changed Abram's name to Abraham. Look up the meaning to see the change.

Abram -

Abraham -

13. God gives Abraham a sign for this covenant also, verses 10-16.

Specifically what is he instructed to do?

Who is to be included in this sign with Abraham?

What if someone chooses not to be a part of the sign?

14. God also changed Sarai's name to Sarah. You might want to look these up.

15. Abraham offers God his son Ishmael in verse 18. Why?

What is highly unlikely for Abraham and Sarah at this point in life?

16. What is God's response to Abraham's idea?

17. God makes it very clear what the future holds for Abraham and Sarah. Briefly state the events of verse 19-21

18. God left Abraham, verse 22, what did Abraham do that day?

19. Verses 17 and 24 give reference to Abraham and Sarah ages. How old will they be when Sarah conceives and then when she gives birth?

20. How old is Ishmael on the day he is circumcised? How old was Abraham when he is circumcised?

## **Interpretation**

21. What do you believe it means to "walk before God and be blameless"? Gen. 17:1

22. How has studying the covenant that God made with Abraham shown you the faithfulness of God in a new way?

Have you seen God is able to do all that He says He will do?

Have you thought about the promises we have as believers in Christ?

Abraham has not seen the promises come into being but he believes by faith that God is able to do all he has promised. How does this apply to our faith as a believer?

23. In spite of the frailties and failings of Abraham and Sarah God is ready to use them to work His plan and His purpose. What is God speaking to you about today? How does God see you? Is this how you view yourself?

24. Ishmael was not God's plan; it was Abram's best effort. But God did not leave him to wander on his own. Have you ever tried to help God out when he did not move as quickly as you thought was needed?

Our Ishmael's can come in many forms. Perhaps you desperately wanted a certain job but God had not given it to you yet. Or maybe it was a mate or a child that you longed for. You may think that God needs to move now before it's too late. There are always areas where we must be willing to wait. God may be saying to you "be still and know that I am God".

How are you at waiting?

25. It has been said, "The greater the need, the more evident the miracle" What is impossible by all human logic is right up God's alley for his miracles! It will be very difficult for anyone to honestly say that the child God promised and then is born to Abraham and Sarah is anything but a miracle. In Gen. 17:17-18, what is Abram focusing on?

Humanly speaking this birth is \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Application**

26. Abraham came to know God as El Shaddai , the Almighty God. God is the all-sufficient source of all of our blessings. God is all powerful.

Can we have a problem that is too big for God to handle?

Are your prayers reflecting this truth about the character of God?

27. Micah 6:8 tells us how we are to walk before God. Look this verse up and write it in the space.

28. What was at stake for Abraham?

What is at stake for us as children of God?

Is obedience something we do only when it is easy?

Is it something we only do when we understand?

Is God speaking to you about some area where faithful obedience is required?

29. What is the key to confident obedience? Jn. 10:27