



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Winter Quarter - Lesson 6 - Week of February 19, 2023

Lesson: HOPING AGAINST HOPE

Bible Verses: Hebrews 11:11; Romans 4:16-21; Genesis 17:16-19

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- What is one thing you hope will happen in this season of your life?
- As a child, what did you dream of becoming when you grew up?

DISCUSSION

God promised Abraham and Sarah a son, Isaac, in their old age. When Sarah was past the age to conceive and when Abraham was as good as dead, they had hope when there was no reason to hope. In spite of the lack of human hope, they still believed God. What would you do if a couple in their 90s told you they were expecting their first child?

Sarah weighed the human impossibility of becoming a mother against the divine impossibility of God breaking His promise. Although she went through moments of disbelief, she ultimately believed God. She thought that it was more likely for her to have a baby in her old age than for God to go back on His word. Have you ever known God to break a promise?

1. What do we know about the story of Sarah and how would you summarize it?
2. Was she a woman of perfect faith?

Just as God gave Sarah strength to conceive (Hebrews 11:11), He gave her strength to believe. And what she believed, she finally conceived by the power of God. The principle of faith that applied to Sarah applies to us as well. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, His promises to you are yours by faith. Don't be limited to the facts and by what you can see.

1. What do we learn about faith from Sarah's story?
2. Before Sarah was enabled to bear a child, what had the last 25 years been like for her?

Abraham was the object of scorn and laughter in spite of his prominence and wealth. All he had to show for fatherhood of multitudes was an unfulfilled promise. In Romans 4:19-20, Paul said that Abraham did not grow weak in faith and did not consider the deadness of his and Sarah's bodies as an impediment to God's plan. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God. Have you ever faced circumstances or a situation where your hope was challenged?

Abraham and Sarah believed God for 25 years without any specific evidence that His promise was going to be fulfilled. That is a long time to wait on God!

1. Have you spent years waiting on God? Explain.
2. What is the lesson for us?

Read Romans 4:16-17. God can call into being that which does not exist. He can take dead things and give them life. He can give new life to a dead future, dead hope, a dead relationship, or even a dead dream. God creates something out of nothing. Don't lose hope!

You have to admire Sarah and Abraham. In spite of the fact that they struggled with what God said was going to happen to them, they continued to believe. In their old age, God fulfilled His word to them.

We must always choose to believe God. There will always be an excuse to hinder you. Abraham's excuse was that he was too old, but his age didn't matter. When you get the divine go, you persist and you go by faith.

How To Have Hope When Life Is Hard

- Persevere by engaging with scripture.
- Persevere by praying and contemplating.
- Persevere by attending worship and participating in church ministries.
- Persevere by following Jesus.

During our lives, the hope that we maintain in God may be challenged. Abraham and Sarah were challenged in this way but mustered the strength to believe God. We must always believe that God will keep His promises to His children.

Prayer Focus: God, help me to maintain hope in you even when my situations are painful.