

Wednesday

Read: Genesis 21:1-2 *A child, at last*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Have you ever been surprised by what God has done or asked of you? Give thanks today.*
2. *What promises has God kept for you?*

Prayer Focus To us, the idea of a 90 year old woman giving birth was as extreme as it was for Abraham and Sarah. Still, we remember, Faithful God, that you promised to bless the world through Abraham. Let us step into that promise now.

Thursday

Read: Genesis 21:3-5 *Isaac, the son*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why does it matter that Abraham obeyed God's traditions of naming and circumcision?*
2. *The name "Isaac" means laughter. Why would Sarah agree to that name?*

Prayer Focus You gave us traditions and practices that remind us of your love and your law. Old or young, we want to uphold your ways, Loving God, so you can fulfill your promises to us and through us.

Friday

Read: Genesis 21:6-7 *Laughing with joy*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What do you think of a God who brings laughter?*
2. *What feelings of wonder and joy have you shared this week? Offer thanks to a God who laughs and celebrates life with us.*

Prayer Focus We're glad to laugh and shake our heads in wonder when you do something we never saw coming. Awesome God, thank you for helping us to lighten up!

Too Wonderful

Pastor's message: Genesis 18:9-15; Genesis 21:1-7

Message Notes:



Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Do you like surprises? Why or why not?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Genesis 18:1-15; Genesis 21:1-7**

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

TOO WONDERFUL

June 18, 2023

Monday

Read: Genesis 18:9-11 *Abraham and Sarah*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How do you think Abraham responded to the visitor's words?*
2. *Abraham has shown hospitality to the visitors. Did he know who they were?*

Prayer Focus We will try to be ready to greet your messengers, to welcome others as part of your family, Holy God. As a church and as individuals, help us give what we can to offer them the hospitality you've shown us.

Tuesday

Read: Genesis 18:12-15 *Sarah hears the news*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Are there things that you have felt were or would be too wonderful to be true?*
2. *Why was Sarah afraid to admit she laughed?*

Prayer Focus Gracious God, we see ourselves in Sarah when we forget what you have promised and how you've kept your promises over the ages. We sometimes snicker at the preposterous plans you have. Yet, when have you ever been simple and predictable? Shake us up. Let us be ready to be surprised.