

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

As the people of God we should be committed to reading Scripture every day. Here are daily readings and questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and we would be honored to provide one. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number of the book. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

Monday, May 1st – Genesis 15

We continue Abram's story today with God's promise. What does God promise to Abram (vs. 1)? How does Abram respond this time (vss. 2-3)? Up until now, Abram has just taken God at his word. But while Abram believes, there seems to be some doubt creeping in. Not that God won't keep his promises, but that the descendant will be a servant. What does God do and how does Abram respond (vss. 4-6)? Even though the plan is not laid out completely, Abram believes God. How does God respond to Abram's belief (vs. 6)? But as we read verse 7, we see Abram is looking for assurance. What kind of assurance does God give Abram (vss. 9-21)? Notice what God prophesies about to Abram (vss. 13-16). The deal is sealed by passing between the carcasses with what two objects (vs. 17)? What are the terms of this covenant (vss. 18-19)? This is all God's doing. Abram only has to be there and receive! How are you like Abram when it comes to God's promises? Where do you doubt? Where do you believe? And where do you need proof? Why is believing without proof important? How does this apply to how we believe in Jesus?

Tuesday, May 2nd – Genesis 16

Today we will learn a little more about Sarai. Up until now, she has been talked about and used, but not really had a voice in any of this. We start with verse one and what does it reiterate about Sarai? It is safe to assume that Abram has discussed with Sarai that he had many conversations with God about many descendants, but it seems to be taking a long time. Sarai, who was barren, is also past childbearing years. Logically, this isn't going to work, so what does Sarai do (vss. 2-3)? Sounds like a reasonable plan. Not God's plan but reasonable nonetheless. What happens (vss. 4-6)? What sin overtakes Hagar? How does the conversation between Sarai and Abram reflect the conversation between Adam, Eve and God in the garden? How does Sarai respond to Hagar (vs. 6)? And what is the result of all of this (vs. 6)? Now we shift scenes to the wilderness and Hagar. What does the angel tell Hagar (vs. 9-10)? Submit to your mistress! That takes a serious dose of humility, since she is carrying the master's baby, not Sarai. What promise does the angel make (vs. 9)? How is this similar to the promise Abram has received? What does the angel say about this child (vss. 11-12)? How then does this story end (vs. 13-16)? God again is faithful, even when humans decide they knew better. When do you try to take things into your own hands to help God? Where do you need to become humbler and submit to those in authority over you? What pride issues do you hold onto like Hagar did? Who do you blame for your sinful behavior? Spend some time in prayer today, asking God to convict your heart of these things, so you may repent and be transformed by the reading of His Holy Word.

Wednesday, May 3rd – Genesis 17:1-14

As we start Chapter 17, let's do a time check. Abram was 75 when he left for Canaan. At 86 Abram has Ismael. Between these 11 years, God has promised and made a covenant with Abram 4 times. As we read verse 1, how old is Abram now? It has been almost 25 years and still no child. We get frustrated if God doesn't answer us within an hour, day, month or year. Twenty-five years and still no answer! But today we see some action. What does God promise Abram again today (vss. 3-8)? Has anything changed from the original promise in chapter 12? What does God do this time to affirm his covenant with Abram (vs.5)? The name Abram means "exalted father" while Abraham means "father of many." Abram's new name is one sign of the covenant. Now read 9-14. God lays out Abraham's responsibility in the covenant. What does God assign Abraham to do (vss. 10-13)? Why do you think God requires this of Abraham (vs. 13)? What happens if someone is not circumcised (vs. 14)? How would this mark help Abraham remember the covenant of God? Why would this outward sign be important? What do we know about humanity forgetting? Generations later, circumcision will be the reminder that they are the fruit of God's covenant and action, not their own doing. Why would this lesson be important for us to remember? How often do we think we accomplish things in our own power? How often do we forget God is at work? Ponder where you forget in your life. Then repent and give God glory for the things he has done.

Thursday, May 4th – Genesis 17:15-27

Abraham is not the only one to have a name change. Who else's name is changing (vs. 15)? Both Sarai and Sarah mean princess. The difference is believed to be the dialects between Ur & Canaan. What blessing will Sarah receive (vs. 16)? How does Abraham respond (vss. 17-18)? Note the human thoughts and solution again in Abraham's response. How does God respond (vss. 19-22)? Note that Isaac means "he laughs" and ties back to verse 17. What does God promise about Ismael? Who will the covenant be fulfilled through? How seriously does Abraham take this promise from God (vss. 23-27)? How seriously do you take the promises of God to you?

Friday, May 5th – Genesis 18:1-15

We close this week with another encounter between Abraham and God with Sarah in the background. Note the hospitality of Abraham (vss. 1-8)? Now read the conversation that follows (vss. 9-12)? Now most of us are beyond childbearing years. If the Lord said that about you, how would you respond? How does the Lord respond to Sarah's laughing (vss. 13-14)? Read Luke 1:36-37. What similarities do you see between these two texts? Verse 15 is an odd verse. What does Sarah do and how does God respond? Humans still have a sense of reverent fear of God, when face to face and being held accountable. Where do you laugh at the promises of God and the abilities of God? Where do you doubt? What do you think God would say about your doubts considering all his mighty acts here at Saint James in the past four years?

Saturday, May 6th – Prepare for tomorrow by reading Genesis 19:23-29.

