

very long time for that promise to be fulfilled – 25 years. Within those 25 years, Abraham and Sarah took matters into their own hands and at Sarah's suggestion, Abraham had a child with Sarah's servant, Hagar. The child's name was Ishmael. Ishmael was not to be the beginning of the great nation promised to Abraham. Do you sometimes get impatient with God? Do you sometimes take matters into your own hands rather than trusting in God's timing? How did that work out? Write your thoughts here and thank God for the fulfillment of God's promises.

### **Thursday, November 17**

Read Genesis 12:1-3 and Hebrews 10:36. The passage in Genesis 12 is the original promise from God to Abram. Abram will become a great nation and that nation will be blessed to be a blessing to others. The passage for the message (Genesis 17) reaffirms the promise made in chapter 12 and that promise is fulfilled in Genesis 21. The New Testament says that we are the inheritors of God's promise to Abraham. Paul says that clearly in Galatians (3:29): "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs of the promise."

What does it mean to inherit God's promises? Do you feel blessed to be a blessing to others? Reflect on God's promises and thank God for the opportunity to be a light unto the world! (Matthew 5:14).

### **Friday, November 18**

Read Hebrews 10:36 and 6:12, II Corinthians 7:1 and Romans 4:19-24. It is through our perseverance, persistence, patience and obedience that we receive God's promises. We recognize that God is faithful and makes a way for His promises to be fulfilled. Think of a time when God's promise was fulfilled in your life. What emotions did you experience as that promise was fulfilled? How did that fulfilled promise affect your relationship with God? Write your thoughts here and ask God to bless you that you may be a blessing to others!

## **Message Notes – November 13, 2022**

### ***God's Promises? Guaranteed!\****

- I. Promises are important because they express our best intentions, present a \_\_\_\_\_ of the future and determine the quality and length of a relationship.
  - A. Since we can't know what the future will bring, we can't tell now what keeping a promise will actually \_\_\_\_\_ us.
  - B. We can't know when it will become inconvenient to \_\_\_\_\_ it.
  - C. We have manufacturers who \_\_\_\_\_ to honor their product warranties, politicians who renege on their \_\_\_\_\_ promises, corporations that shuck their pension obligations and people who everyday make \_\_\_\_\_ to their promises to one another.
- II. Promises are important though that is why so much of the story of the \_\_\_\_\_ between God and humanity written about in Genesis is about promises.
  - A. Our text is from Genesis 17, and it's about God making a promise to \_\_\_\_\_.
    1. God promised the then 75-year-old Abram that he would be the \_\_\_\_\_ of a great nation.
    2. As a sign of this promise, God changes Abram's name to \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Abram means "\_\_\_\_\_ father," but Abraham means "father of a \_\_\_\_\_."
  - B. At the same time, \_\_\_\_\_ takes on a new name.
    1. Most Bible versions records God as saying "I am God \_\_\_\_\_."
    2. The Shaddai part of God's new name is a little more curious – associated with the Hebrew word for a woman's breast – symbolic of the place where a child is cuddled and \_\_\_\_\_.

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\*Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

3. This great layering of meaning gives us insights into the very \_\_\_\_\_ of God who is strong and almighty but also tender and nurturing; who defends us and cares for us.
  - C. Whatever is intended by this name change for God, it's significant that the Bible first mentions this name for God in the context of his promise \_\_\_\_\_.
- III. This reality of a kept promise is \_\_\_\_\_ to understanding anything about God at all.
- A. Kept promises are part of what define God's \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. One of the facts that Scripture passages like this one from Genesis 17 teaches us is that \_\_\_\_\_ as we know it is grounded in promises.
  - C. The promise God made to Abraham is \_\_\_\_\_ promise also; and here's the thing church family – God makes good on his promises.
- IV. God makes a way for God's promises to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Our future is also dependent on our \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. We can \_\_\_\_\_ God's integrity in keeping promises as we seek to be faithful in \_\_\_\_\_ to those kept promises

## ***Daily Meditations and Study Guide***

The following is a daily meditation and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

### **Monday, November 14**

Think of a time when someone fulfilled a promise to you and really came through for you. What was the promise and how did you feel when you they honored their promise to you? How did that fulfilled promise affect your relationship with that person? While we would all agree that promises are important, we live in a world in which promises are often not kept. Manufacturers refuse

to honor their product warranties, politicians renege on their campaign promises, corporations shuck their pension obligations and people make exceptions to their promises to one another every day. Think about how you felt when that promise was fulfilled vs. the idea of that broken promises are so much a part of our world. Reflect on those two extremes, write your thoughts here and pray that our world will increase in its integrity and honesty in relationships.

### **Tuesday, November 15**

Read Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16. Promises are important and that maybe why so much of the story of the relationship between God and humanity in Genesis is about promises. Our text is from Genesis 17, and it's about God making a promise to Abram. Promises are important because they express our best intentions, present a vision of the future and determine the quality and length of a relationship or a business endeavor or even an appliance warranty – if we extend the definition of a promise.

What else would you say about the importance of promises? Why are promises important to you? How do you feel when you read that we live in a world where many promises just aren't taken that seriously? Write your thoughts here and pray that God will reveal how kept promises are integral to our world.

### **Wednesday, November 16**

Read Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16. To remember God's promise to Abram, God changes Abram's name to Abraham. Abram means "exalted father," but Abraham means "father of a multitude." God also changes Sarai's name to Sarah. Sarai means "my princess" and Sarah means "mother of nations." Both Abraham and Sarah now have new identities as the couple through which God began a people who were once no people and now they are God's people.

The name change represents God's promise, however, it took a