

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

Genesis 17:1-14

For Starting

- What did you want to be when you grew up? Explain why.
- Does your name have a special meaning, and/or were you named after someone special?
- Who has been a spiritual hero in your life?
- What is your favourite name for God, e.g. Prince of Peace, Shepherd, Rock, etc.?

For Reviewing

- What did God tell Abraham to do (v.1)? How does this differ from Enoch and Noah? (See Gen 5:22 and Gen 6:8-9)
- How would God confirm His promise to Abraham (v.2)?
- What was Abraham's response to God's promise (v.3)? Do you think we should respond in the same way today?
- What did Abraham's new name mean (v.4-5)?
- According to v.6, who will come from Abraham's fruitfulness?
- What will be an "everlasting possession" to Abraham (v.8)?
- Explain Abraham's part of the covenant (v.9).
- How would the covenant be guaranteed (v.10-14)? How did this differ from "circumcision of the heart"? (Romans 2:28-29).
- Count how many times God says, "I will" in the text.

For Discussion

- What is your response to God's name, "El Shaddai"?
- Why did God change Abraham & Sarah's names? How do you think people reacted when they gave their new names?
- What was the significance of circumcision for Abraham?
- "*God wants us to 'circumcise our hearts' and be totally devoted to Him in love and obedience.*" Why is this a hard truth to apply?
- How did Abraham demonstrate his obedience to God's command? See Genesis 17:23-27. How should we apply this principle today?
- You could end by reading together Genesis 17:3-4.

Genesis 17:1-14 (NIVUK)

The covenant of circumcision

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. ² I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

³ Abram fell face down, and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. ⁸ The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."

⁹ Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. ¹⁰ This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹ You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹² For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner – those who are not your offspring. ¹³ Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."