

Genesis 12-50 Series #2: When we don't trust God

1. Reconstruct the story line in Abram's and Sarai's life.

It might be helpful to write a brief summary statement for each event.

- i. Genesis 12.1-9 *God's covenant promise to Abram: family, land, blessing to the world*
- ii. 12.10-13
- iii. 13.1 & 8-9
- iv. 14.11-16
- v. 14.17-24
- vi. 15.1-6
- vii. 16.1-13
- viii. 17.1-11 & 15-16
- ix. 17.17-21, 18.1-5 & 18.9-15
- x. 20.1-7
- xi. 21.1-8
- xii. 21.9-14 & 17

2. God's patience with Abram and Sarai.

- From the line of events above, which ones particularly tried God's patience? And how did God respond?
- How had God shown his patience earlier, like in the time of Noah? 1 Peter 3.18-20
- Why is God so patient when people mess up? For example, Romans 2.4 and 2 Peter 3.8-13
- For some reassurances of God's patience, see Exodus 34.6, Numbers 14.18, Nehemiah 9.17, Psalm 86.15, Proverbs 14.29, Joel 2.13, Jonah 4.2, Nahum 1.3, James 1.19.
- Confession time: Recount a time when God has had to be patient with you. And with us collectively. And what should be our response?

3. The Child of Promise.

- Who is to be "heir" to Abram, the blessing promised by God? Genesis 15.1-6 and 21.1-7. Why is this so important to God, and to Abram and Sarai?
- What does Stephen say about this heir in his last speech before being executed? Acts 7.2-8
- Tracing the line of Isaac through to Jesus, what does Hebrews 1.1-9 say about this Son of Promise?
- What is Paul's understanding of "Children of Promise"? Romans 9.6-9 and Galatians 4.28

4. Blessings and Consequences

"Trusting God in the everyday decisions of life can bring far greater blessings than we could ever dream. Mistrusting God in the everyday decisions of life can have far greater consequences that we could ever fear!"

Discuss this in relation to your everyday life and Christian walk.

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