



**WEST
SIDE
CHURCH**

Week 7

Sermon Series: Sojourners: Genesis

Sermon Title: "What Does Faith Look Like?"

Sermon Text: Genesis 17:1-27

Study Handout Week of: May 29, 2022

Group Week of: June 5, 2022

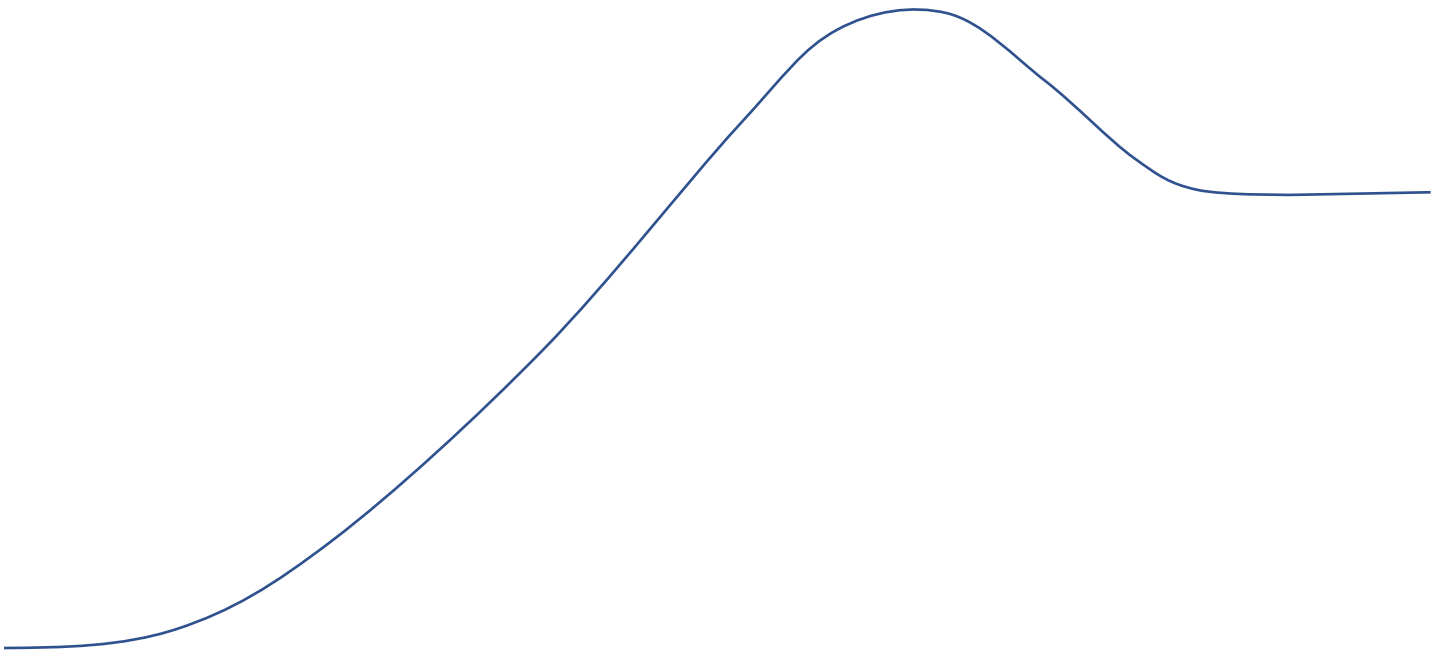
Sermon Date: June 12, 2022

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies	
Day 1	Circumcision – Deuteronomy 30:1-10
Day 2	Circumcision – Romans 2:17-29
Day 3	Circumcision – Galatians 5:1-12
Day 4	The Heart – Ezekiel 36:24-32
Day 5	James 2:14-26

The Text: Genesis 17:1-27

Instructions

- 1) Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to His words.
- 2) Read the passage.
- 3) Using the "Story Arc" below, insert the verses according to how you see the story begin, grow, climax, fall, and finish.
- 4) Write out the main lesson of the story.
- 5) Write out some of the other lessons along the way.



Textual Questions

- 1) What is the central message of this passage?
- 2) What do you see as new or different in God's words to Abram in these verses?
- 3) What does Abram's obedience at the end of the chapter demonstrate?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) Sometimes, like it was for Abram, we can go for 13 years (or any long season) without a major experience or revelation from God. In those seasons, what has happened to your faith? What has happened in your walk with God?
- 2) Based on Abram's actions in this chapter it seems that his faith has grown over the past 13 years, not shrunk. Is it possible to grow in faith, and walk more closely with God, even if you aren't having major experiences with God or revelations from Him? If yes, how? If no, why not?
- 3) In 15:6 Abraham was justified (made righteous) by faith. Through the rest of Abraham's life we are going to learn that genuine faith in God leads to obedience, even when that obedience is unfathomably difficult to do. In verse 1 it is this "walk before me faithfully and be blameless." What is the connection between faith in God and living faithfully and blamelessly?
- 4) If faith leads to obedience, where does our disobedience come from? How can you know whether you are personally doing something by faith or not? (Remember that the Pharisees outwardly obeyed God but did not have faith.)
- 5) God promises to give Abraham's descendants the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession. Based on this, how are we to understand the destruction of Israel in the Old Testament? Secondly, should we expect that the Israelites will one day fully possess the land of Canaan as described in chapter 15?
- 6) The test of Abraham's obedience is in circumcising himself and the men of his household. What makes this a test of faith? What has God asked you to do that has been a testing of your faith?
- 7) Circumcision of the flesh was just a symbol. What we need is circumcision of the heart. God promised to do exactly that in Deuteronomy 30:1-10. If outward circumcision now has been replaced by circumcision of the heart, what must be the "sign" of the covenant in your life today? (Read Galatians 5:1-6 if you're not sure.)
- 8) Where do you need to recommit to walking faithfully and blamelessly with God today?