

## Genesis 15-17 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. From Gen 16:1-6 what did Sarai ask and why (v1-2) and how did Abram respond (v2-3)? What were the results (v4, 5, 6)? What does this teach us?

5. Based on 16:7-10 what did Hagar do (v7-8) and what was God's response through His angel (v7, 8, 9)? What did He promise Hagar (v10)?

6. Looking at 16:11-16 how did God bless Hagar (v11, 15) and why (v11, 13-14)? What would Ishmael be like (v12) and how old was Abram when he was born (v16)?

7. Read 17:1-8. What did God command (v1) and affirm (v2, 4) to Abram and how did he respond (v3)? What further promises did He make (v5, 6, 7, 8)? Why did his name change?

8. Using 17:9-14 what was Abraham's "part" in the covenant (v9, 10)? Who did it affect (v11-14)? Why do you think God made this the "sign" of the Abrahamic covenant?

9. From 17:15-21 why did Sarai's name change (v15-16) and what promises did she receive (v16, 19, 21)? How did Abraham react (v17-18) and what was God's answer (v19-21)?

10. According to 17:22-27 what action did Abraham take (v22-23)? How old were Abraham and Ishmael (v24-25) and how difficult was this act of obedience? Apply.

11. As you look at Gen 15-17 which of Abraham's approaches to doing God's will were wrong and which was right? How did God deal with all of this and what does this teach us?

### Scripture to Remember

*"Then he believed in the Lord  
and He reckoned it to him  
as righteousness."*

**Genesis 15:6 (NASV)**

### Celebration Fellowship

*Help—Hope—Healing*

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**[www.thehospitalchurch.com](http://www.thehospitalchurch.com)**

### Life Group Questions—Life on the Farm—Part 2 (Gal 6:1-8)

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Go around the room and let people share about their favorite plants or flowers, and if they garden, let them describe the process.
2. Read Gal 6:6-8. Define the principle of identification. Based on your last week's crops, what type of fleshly or spiritual seeds have you planted that caused those?
3. Talk about the principle of incubation. Do you struggle more with being deceived that the crops will come, or with discouragement over the fact that they will come? How can you overcome this discouragement?
4. How is the principle of intensification both a good and a bad thing? How do you make it "work" for you?
5. Talk about some ways to plant good seeds in these areas—salvation, Scripture, worship, parenting and marriage.
6. How can you plant good seeds in these areas—work, material things, speech, relationships, forgiveness?
7. If there is anything else from the message that impressed you, share it.



# THE BIG THREE

Studies in the Genesis 12-36

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### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

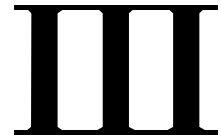
- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

## Looking for Loopholes

### Introduction to Genesis 15-17

The American comic and actor, W. C. Fields, was once caught reading the Bible. When questioned about it he responded by saying, “I’m looking for loopholes.” He was looking for an “out” to keep from doing what he should instead of doing as God said. In some ways this week’s study is like this. God had told Abram that he would have many descendants, but he didn’t yet have a son. So, his common sense began to kick in as he started looking for logical loopholes to fulfill God’s promise. The first example was the suggestion that his servant, Eliezer, be adopted by him and become his legal son. Rather than accepting this God affirmed to Abram His promise to give him a natural born son. Hearing this, Abram believed God and this faith made him right

before God. This response led to further confirmation, that of the promise of the land of Canaan. Using a ritual of passing between dismembered animals God impressed Abram with the solemnity of this promise and presented more details. His descendants would be enslaved in a foreign land for four hundred years, then come back and repossess Canaan and lands around it. The next “loophole” came from Sarai. She suggested that Abram have children through her handmaiden, Hagar, and he went along with this. When she bore Ishmael Hagar despised Sarai, so Sarai asked to banish her. After she left the Lord found her by the well and told her to return to Sarai; but He also promised to bless her son and multiply



**God provided a foundation of faith for Israel through their first three leaders.**

his descendants. Even though God brought good from this Abram’s “solution” was not God’s plan. Thirteen years later God reaffirmed that Abraham (fka Abram) and Sarah (fka, Sarai) would have a son a year later, at one hundred and ninety respectively. They would be very fruitful and have royal descendants who would have an eternal covenant with God. He then commanded circumcision as the symbol that would set Jews apart to God forever. Abraham immediately obeyed; he was done with “looking for loopholes”.

## Daily Study Questions for Genesis 15-17

*(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com](http://www.celebrationnet.com), small groups, abf)*

<p>1. Read Genesis 15:1-6. What did God promise to Abram in general (v1), and what question did this raise (v2-3)? How did God answer (v4-5) and why was Abram’s response significant (v6)?</p>	
<p>2. Looking at 15:7-14 what further promise did God reaffirm (v7) and what were some of the details (v13-14)? What ritual did God then command (v8-11) and what was the effect (v12)?</p>	
<p>3. Using 15:15-21 what future events did God reveal (v15, 16) and how did He affirm all of this (v17)? What covenant did God make with Abram here (v18) and who would this affect (v19-21)?</p>	

*(Continued on Next Page)*