

GROWING IN THE WAITING

Genesis 17

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The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Cell Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Watch this video together as a group: <https://vimeo.com/62077623>
 - Which child do you identify with most in the video? Why?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

Intro:

- Read Genesis 16:16-17:8 together. In the message on Sunday, Pastor Brad encouraged us with **four ways God grows us while we are waiting in faith.**
- Look back at the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard (a new idea, an application, an illustration, a challenge, a question, or a new way of thinking)?

#1 - God grows you by giving you a bigger picture of Himself (Genesis 16:16-17:8)

- *In Genesis 17:1, God refers to Himself as "El-Shaddai" - God Almighty - giving Abram a big picture view of God Himself just like He did in Genesis 15:5 when he led Abram out of his tent.*
- A. What do you think it means to have a “big picture view of God?”
- B. Where were you the last time you realized God was bigger than you previously thought He was?
- C. How might you pray differently if you actually believed God was big enough to answer your prayers?

#2 - God grows you by preparing you for the future

- *In ancient times, a changed name indicated a changed destiny. God gives Abram and Sarai new names to show them that He has a great future in store for them.*
- A. In our times of waiting, Pastor Brad encouraged us, “Don’t just look to **get** through it, look to **grow** through it.” What are some areas in your life you are just trying to **get** through right now?
- B. Sometimes, God wants you to grow now so that you can help others around you in a similar circumstance in the future (2 Corinthians 1). Other than your family, who are some people you could help be more like Jesus this week? How will you do that?

#3 - God grows you by calling you to relational holiness (Genesis 17:9-14)

- *Circumcision was an outward sign of an inward reality much like believer’s baptism or a wedding ring.*
- A. Read Romans 4:11. When was Abram declared righteous? How does this idea compare to Jeremiah 9:25 and Matthew 15:7-9?
- B. Be honest - are you more concerned about your own heart condition, or what people see externally?

#4 - God grows you by calling you to obedience (Genesis 17:21-27)

- *Although he was ninety-nine years old, Abraham obeyed God without question “that very day.”*
- A. Think back to the video above. What is the “marshmallow” in your life that you feel like God is asking you to wait for?
- B. How can you specifically wait in obedience this week?

PRAY WITH EACH OTHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that you and your group will understand that God’s timing is perfect in every area of life.

