

Genesis 17 — The Covenant

Warm-Up Question:

Discuss a time in your life where you felt powerless, hopeless or stuck.

READ: Genesis 17

I. COVENANT: PROMISES

- What is a covenant and how is it different than a simple agreement? (Ray mentioned an initiator, a recounting, obligations, blessings and curses). How does a marriage take on the model of a covenant?
- What are some of the promises God makes from Genesis 17:1-8?
- What has Abraham done to earn such promises from God? What have you done to earn God's promise to you?

II. COVENANT: SIGN

- From verses 9-14, what does God require of Abraham and his descendants after him?
- God made similar promises to Abraham in Genesis 15. What was the significance of God giving a sign of his promise by cutting up animals and walking between the halves while Abraham was asleep?
- Why is circumcision a sign of the covenant (Ray gave 5 reasons)? How does the story in Genesis 15 important to understanding this sign?

III. COVENANT: KEEPER

- What does God do for us even as we aren't able to keep the covenant?
- How do we see Jesus being "cut off" on the cross and what is the significance of it for us?
- How does God's faithfulness to the covenant and Jesus sacrifice in the covenant motivate you to strive to be faithful in our covenant with God?

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?

"Human history is the long terrible story of men trying to find something other than God which will make him happy."
- C. S. Lewis

"For us to be blameless, Jesus had to take all the blame for us."

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