

## prayer requests

Share prayer requests with the small group. Ask someone to take notes and share the requests with group members after the meeting.

# Sermon Study

Salvation People: Son of Inheritance

Genesis 17:15-21, Genesis 18:9-14, & Genesis 21:1-7

July 9, 2017

## vision

Eastview  
Christian  
Church is a  
fearless church  
of Christ  
followers whose  
ridiculous love  
and dangerous  
witness are  
irresistible.



**AUTHOR'S NOTE** (summary of key points for this study)  
*We now shift our focus from God's salvation promises to God's salvation people. Start by observing the reactions of Abraham and Sarah, but then the rest of your discussion should center around Isaac and the role his birth plays in God's covenant, primarily that Isaac is proof positive that God delivers on His promises and has a purpose for His people.*

**Gather** (your group getting to know each other)

No matter how old you are, you can probably think of something you're now "too old" to do or say, or some place you're now "too old" to go. What comes to mind? What are you now "too old" for?

## study notes

**Go**  
(your group on mission)

The story of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac shows us that God can do the miraculous and look thousands of years down the road, while we stumble over the limits of the human body and can barely see past our own generation. In your relationships with non-believers, are you trying to control everything according to your own understanding, or are you demonstrating faith in God? Perhaps your discussion could challenge you to alter your approach in ways that might improve your witness.

**Grow** (your group growing as Christ-followers)

**Key Scripture**

"I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him." (Genesis 17:19, ESV)

**Key Word Study**

The Hebrew word *owlam* means "forever, perpetual, continuous existence."

**Discussion**

1. Have someone begin the discussion time by leading the group in prayer, then read Genesis 17:15-21, Genesis 18:9-14, and Genesis 21:1-7.
2. There's no indication here that God was upset with Abraham and Sarah's laughter. In fact, far from being angered by it, God incorporates their reaction into His plan by choosing the name Isaac (which means "he laughs"). Read Romans 4:13-21, paying special attention to verses 19-20. Can we, like Abraham, remain unwaveringly strong in our faith while still finding God's promises hard to fathom? Discuss that spectrum, and any experiences you might have with questioning while still believing.
3. In Genesis 17:19, God directly answers Abraham's sincere, emotional prayer with a blunt 'no.' Abraham probably thought it was a great prayer. Couldn't God just find favor with Ishmael and do the covenant that way? Seems to make sense, right? But God simply says no. Why? And how does this apply to our own prayer life? Share any experiences and lessons you might have with receiving a 'no' from God, even when your prayer was heartfelt, genuine, and seemed to make perfect sense.

4. Following the pattern of chapters 12, 13, and 15, once again here in chapters 17 and 18, we see God repeating and/or making new covenants with Abraham. God is persistent in pursuing His people. Why do you think this is?

5. Read 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, 2 Corinthians 5:5, and Ephesians 1:13-14. Referring to your answers from the previous question, in what ways is God still in the business of pursuing His people?

6. Aside from the assurance of our inheritance, God also has a purpose for His people. In fact, verse 19 shows that God already has Isaac's offspring in mind, who themselves will each play vital roles as God's salvation people in God's salvation story. You are part of that. What does it say about God that He wants you to play a role in His salvation story? What does it say about you? Share your feelings on this, and whether it's more exciting or daunting to accept.

7. As spiritual descendants of Abraham through Isaac, we can be thankful that we're part of the inheritance and the salvation work of God. Read Galatians 4:21-31 and share your reactions. What does Paul's understanding of Isaac and Ishmael mean for us today? How should we respond?

8. Sometimes God does the impossible to show that it could only happen through Him, and not be accomplished on our own. Consider the birth of Isaac and read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 as context for these final questions: What are you doing that requires faith? What are you involved in right now that is 'beyond your ability' and requires Christ's strength to be amplified by your weakness?

**Give**  
(your group serving each other)

This week, pray that each of you would take steps of obedience which lead you outside of your comfort zone, and into a life of greater faith and greater reliance of God. These are difficult, uncomfortable prayers, but as with Abraham, God might have more in store for your group than you can possibly imagine.