

WEEK 7 | SACRED SYMBOLS
GENESIS 17:1-14



This week we continue in our series on the life of Abraham in Genesis 12-25. This is a story about God's call coming back into Abraham's life.

Read Genesis 17:1-14

1.) What is the first thing God says to Abram in verse 1? Why do you suppose he leads with this?

(Note: "God Almighty" is the translation of the name El Shaddai. This name for God appears 48 times in the Old Testament, almost always at a time when God's people are hard pressed.)

2.) In verses 4-8 God reiterates his promises to Abraham, expanding on some of them. What does God promise to do for Abraham?

3.) God tells Abraham to be circumcised and calls this a "sign of the covenant" (v.11). How does circumcision point to the covenant?

5.) Who is eligible to receive the sign? (Read Romans 4:11 and note that circumcision was a sign of the righteousness Abraham received by faith). What significance is there in the fact that Abraham believed first and then received the sign, but his children would have this happen in reverse order (they get the sign as infants, and could only exercise faith later)?

6.) Read Deuteronomy 30:6 and Ezekiel 36:25-26. How do these passages keep us from confusing the sign with the reality?

7.) The call of God keeps coming back into Abraham's life (12 times in Genesis). Have you ever had an experience where God taught you something new about his character or about his promises that helped you move forward in your faith?

8.) What steps is God calling you to in your journey with him this week? What can you do to posture yourself to hear God's call?