Abraham & Sarah

First United Methodist Church, Sallisaw – Weekly Prayer & Study Guide 6/23/13

Prayer - Use the following prayer to begin your time with God each day.

Lord, we struggle to trust You with our greatest fears. We are single, and we are afraid that we won’t get married. We have problems in our marriage, and we are afraid that we won’t make it. We want to have children, and we are afraid that we won’t. We would like to adopt, but we are afraid that we wouldn’t be able to afford it. Help us put our faith and our trust in You to bless us in Your timing. We pray in the name of the One who is able to do all things. Amen.

Monday – Read Genesis 12:1-20. God made a covenant with Abram who was later named Abraham in which God promised to give Abram a land, to make his family a great nation, and to bless Abram so that he would be a blessing to all of the families of the earth. God has never broken a covenant or a promise. Like, Abram, God promises to bless us so that we can be a blessing to others. Abram and Sara believed in God’s promise enough to leave everything behind and set out on a great journey; however, by the end of the chapter, Abram fell short by fearing Sarah being his wife. What causes you to doubt God’s promises? Spend some time in prayer thinking about all of the promises that God has kept in your life. How is God blessing you so that you can be a blessing to others?

Tuesday – Read Genesis 15:1-21 & Hebrews 11:8-12. God keeps God’s promises in his time. Abram was 75 years old when God first made the promise to bless him with a land, to make his family a great nation, and to make him a blessing to all of the families of the earth. How can we patiently wait for God to fulfill God’s promises? When Abram complained to God that he remained childless, God guided Abram to look at the heavens and to count the stars if he could. “So shall your descendants be.” Abram believed God would keep the promise, and God made a covenant with him. It can be hard to wait for God’s blessing to come to you when you are hoping to have a child or waiting to meet the person you will marry. Notice how God ministered to Abram and comforted him. Ask God to minister to you.

Wednesday – Read Genesis 16:1-16. Abram and Sara took matters into their own hands rather than waiting on God. They got ahead of God. Sara’s idea for Abram to have a child with Hagar caused problems in their marriage. This always happens when we think we know better than God. In spite of the conflict between Sara and Hagar, notice the way that God’s grace abounds even for Hagar. The worst thing is never the last thing. Even when we mess up our lives, God is still able to bring redemption and blessings out of our darkest times. Ishmael was born when Abram was 86 years old. Pray for God to give you the patience and the faith to depend on God’s promises in your life.

Thursday – Read Genesis 17:1-27 & Romans 4:1-25. After Abram and Sara had waited for 24 years on God’s promise, God established a covenant with Abram and all of his descendants. God gave Abram the name Abraham and Sara the name Sarah. God promised to give Abraham a son by Sarah, but Abraham fell on the ground laughing at the thought of a child being born to a 100 year old man and a 91 year old woman. However, Abraham believed in the covenant enough to become circumcised. Notice how Paul speaks of Abraham’s faith. Also, notice how God’s blessings included Ishmael and his descendants. Pray for God to help you believe in God’s big blessings and promises.

Friday – Read Genesis 18:1-15 & Proverbs 19:21. Like Abraham, Sarah laughed at the thought of having a child in her old age. But God challenged Abraham and Sarah with a question that we should consider: “Is anything too hard for the LORD?” Like Sarah, many of us simply don’t believe that God will do it for us. The world overwhelms us, and we fail to believe that God will bless us with a spouse, give us a child, allow us to adopt, bring reconciliation to our marriage, or help us dig out of a financial hole. In what ways do you struggle with doubt? As Proverbs 19:21 states, Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but the Lord’s purpose will prevail. Pray for God to help you put your faith in the LORD’s promises. Pray for your spouse, your boyfriend or girlfriend, your future spouse, or your friends.

Saturday – Read Genesis 21:1-21. God is rarely early, but God is never late. It took 25 years, but God kept the promise to give Abraham and Sarah a son. When Isaac was born, Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” God is able to create something wonderful out of nothing. God is able to birth a people through a barren couple. Through this family, God created a set-apart people to be a blessing to all of the families of the earth. How does it make you feel to know that God is faithful when we are willing to wait for God’s timing? Ask God to help you put your whole trust in God’s promises knowing that God will be faithful to you for your whole life.


Abraham & Sarah

Dr. Trevor Smith

The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Sarah gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. Sarah was a hundred years old when her son Isaac was born to her. Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.” - Genesis 21:1-7

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon:

Prayer List

New & Short Term Requests*

- Kacen Copeland, diagnosed with HLH. Carla Campbell’s friend.
- Hayley Seal, 16 year old seriously injured in car accident. Nancy Wheeler’s niece’s stepdaughter.
- Owen Balmain, liver cancer; may need liver transplant. Lynn Allsup’s friend.
- Kelly Bauer, recovering from double pneumonia.
- Shirley Crawford, cancer, JoAnna Rogers’ friend.
- Storm Victims.
- James Greenhaw, kidney failure, Lesley Marrel’s dad.
- Doug Scott, transferred to hospice.
- High school classmate of Robert Glander.
- Lou Rogers, back in Sparks Select Hospital.
- Kyle Martin McGowan, diagnosed with leukemia. David Martin’s brother.

Hospitalized / Continuing Treatment

- Kim Edwards, lung cancer.
- Shelby Hiser, rehab, Ruth Knight’s grandson.

On-Going Needs

Ptn Bartram
Jackson Probst
Kogi Christians
Janet Luttrell
Gary Griffin
Freda Cooke
Richard Hawkins
Bill Eaton

Our Service People

Greg Luttrell, North Carolina
Nick Hartnell, San Antonio
Jeremy Rogers, Maryland
Jessica McMillian, Earl Plumlee, Pakistan
Jennifer Rogers-Cooer, South Carolina

*Names on this list will remain for three weeks.

Call Anne Botterolf at (918) 775-2072 to start the Prayer Chain.