

Home Community Study & Discussion – September 22, 2013

Questions About the Text Following Up on the Sermon (Genesis 17:1-14)

- Read Romans 4:1-17. What difference does it make whether Abraham's faith was counted as righteousness before or after he was circumcised? (see Rom 4:10)
- Notice the phrase “the LORD (Yahweh) appeared” in Gen 17:1. Read John 1:18 and Exo 33:20. How do you make sense of the fact that “the LORD appeared” to Abraham?
- Read Galatians 3:16-18. What point do you think Paul is making about the promise to Abraham's “Offspring”? (c.f. Gen 17:7-8)

Questions From the Text Not Addressed by the Sermon

- Read Gen 16:1-4a. Now read Gen 17:10-11. Why do you think God gave circumcision as a sign of the covenant to Abraham? (Remember to keep discussion family-friendly!)
- Read Mat 26:26-28. Why do you think Jesus gave the Lord's Supper as the sign of the New Covenant?

In What Ways Does God Reveal Himself in this Passage? What Do We Learn About God Here?

- What did Abraham learn in Genesis 17:1-14 about the Covenant of Grace that he did not know before? What do you know about the Covenant of Grace that Abraham perhaps did not know even then? (Also see Jer 31:31-34; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Romans 4:13-25)

What Ethical Questions Does this Passage Raise? Right vs. Wrong? Moral vs. Immoral?

- **KIDS' QUESTION:** Was it wrong for Abram to take Hagar as his wife? (Gen 16:1-4) If so, why didn't God punish Abram? (hint: Genesis 15:6)

In What Ways Do You See the Gospel Foreshadowed in this Text? Does it teach us about God's Holiness? Does it teach us about sin? Does it teach us about repentance? Does it teach us about God's grace?

- Holiness (v 1), repentance (v 3), grace (verses 4-8).

Living as Christians now 20 centuries after Christ, how does the Gospel change how we might look at this passage?

- What is the relationship do you think between the sign of circumcision and baptism? Do you think Christians should baptize infants like Abraham was told to circumcise infant boys? (Gen 17:12) Why or why not?
- How much do you think it matters that Christians get baptized *after* they come to believe the Gospel?