

SERIES TITLE: OBSTACLES TO GOD'S PROMISES

PART 3: DISBELIEF

TEXT: GENESIS 17:1-18:15

INTRODUCTION.

As we continue studying through Genesis, we follow the life of Abraham, the great Patriarch. After receiving astounding promises from God, Abraham is faced with one obstacle after another. There is much we can learn from the man, because all of us deal with similar obstacles in our own lives.

DISCUSSION.

When is laughter not a good thing?

EXAMINATION.

- 17:1-14 When God made the covenant with Abraham in chap. 15, he only asked him to believe; what is the purpose of circumcision? (See Romans 4:9-12)
- 17:15-27 Why did Abraham laugh?
- How do you explain his willingness to follow through with circumcision?
- 18:1-15 How does Abraham go overboard in his hospitality and why?
- Why did Sarah laugh?
- Why does God seem to rebuke her and not Abraham?

APPLICATION.

- No outward act is required for salvation (not circumcision, baptism, or responding to an "altar call"). Why is that important?
- Do you personally sense a need to treat God with more awe rather than casually? What stands in the way or needs to change in your life to make that happen?
- Can you think of any examples where you have settled for "Ishmael" because you didn't believe "Isaac" would arrive?

- Describe a situation where God might want you to apply the question: “Is anything too hard for the Lord?”
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?