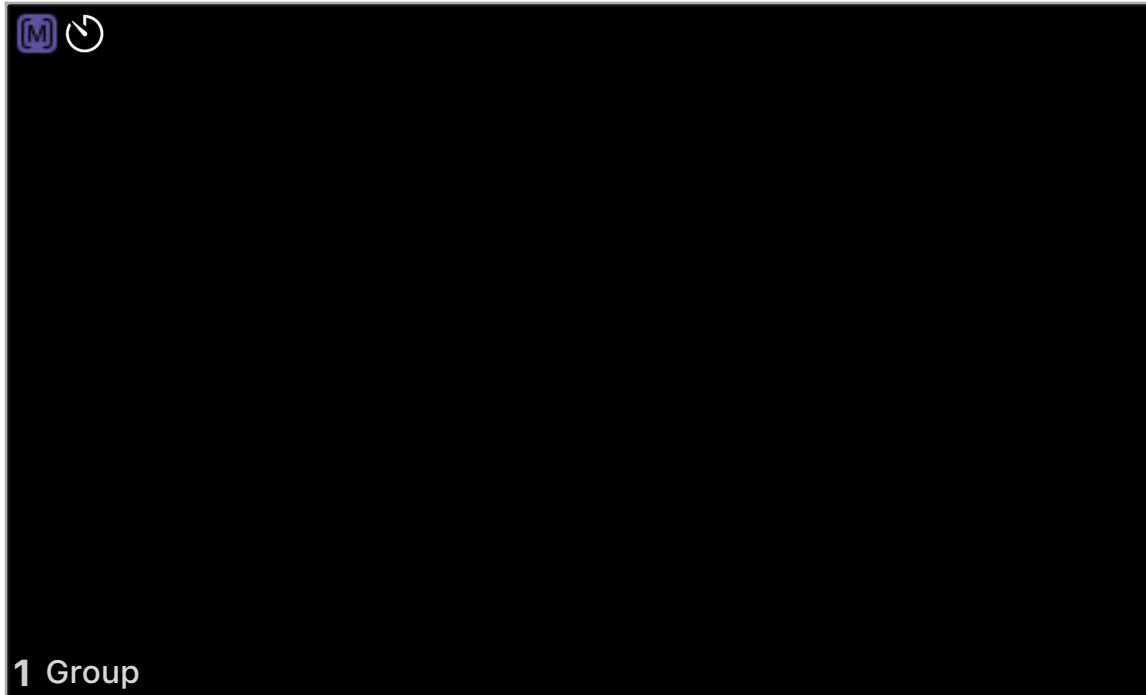


Jun 12, 2026

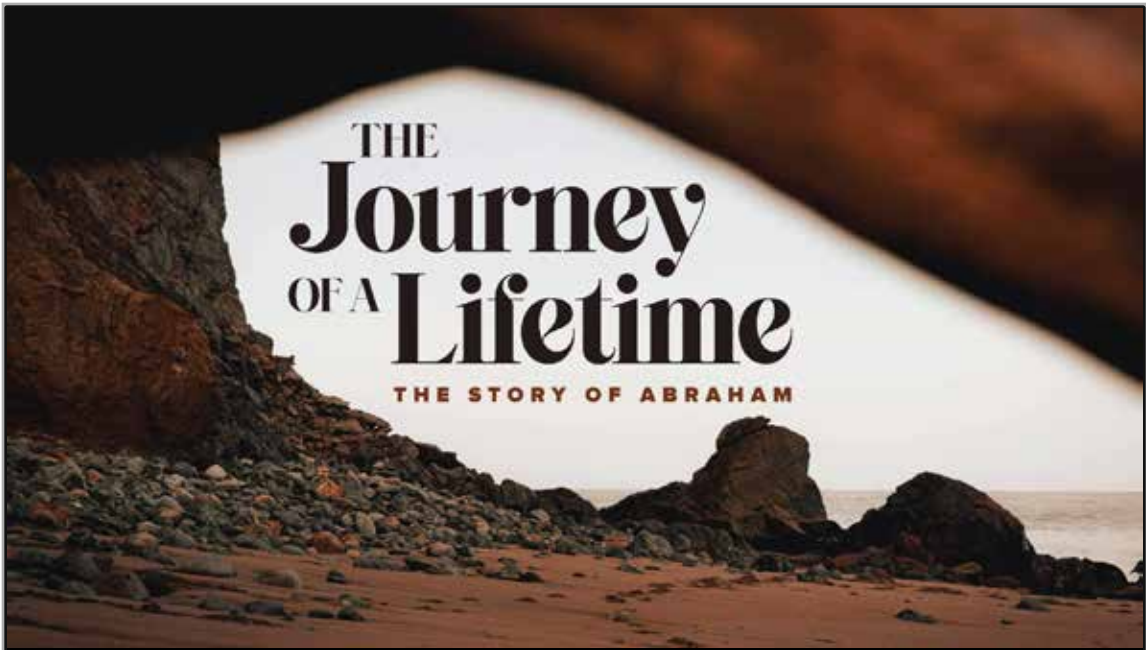
06-14-2026 Message





3

Reset Keying - Wait for it - 10 seconds



4

Start Theme Slide

⁸By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

Hebrews 11:8 (NIV)

5

Hebrews 11:8 (NIV)

REASONS WAITING IS SO HARD:

1. Waiting feels unproductive.
2. Waiting makes us feel out of control.
3. Waiting requires patience.
4. We have wired our brains for instant gratification.

6

The object of our waiting makes a big difference in our experience of waiting.

7

Abraham waited for a promised blessing, the birth of a son.

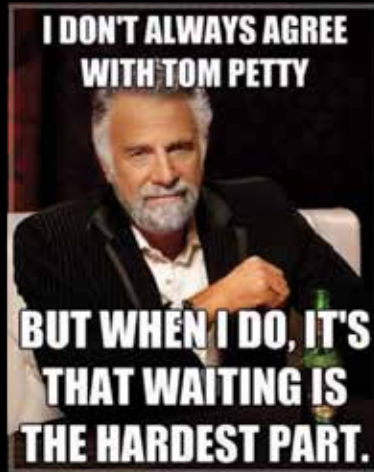
8

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING ON?

9



10



11

By any account, Abraham and Sarah waited a long time between God's promise of a son and the birth of Isaac.

12

God's initial call is when Abraham is 75
and Sarah is 65.

13

Both Abraham and Sarah had
difficulties believing God's promise
and trusting his timing.

14

The first part of this narrative focuses on Abraham's struggle with belief.

15

Chapter 12: God makes the initial promise to Abraham.

16

TIMELINE

Abraham's Age & God's Covenant Promises



17

¹The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

²“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

Genesis 12:1-4 (NIV)

18

Genesis 12:1-4 (NIV) 1 of 2

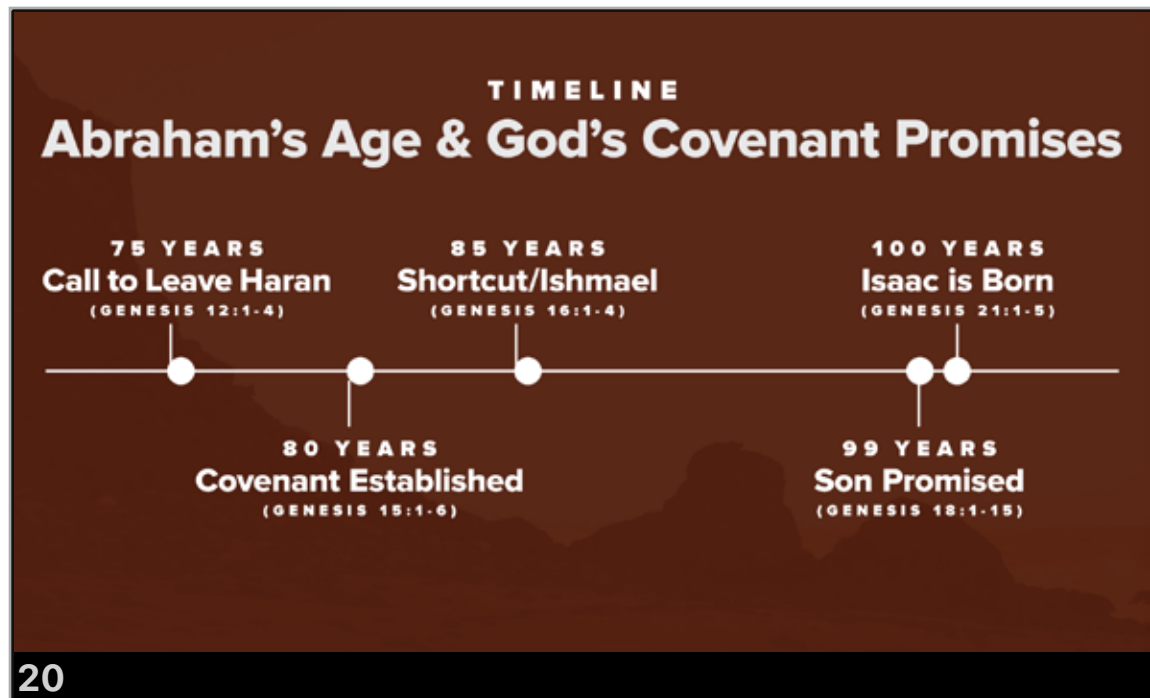
³I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him;
and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-
five years old when he set out from Haran.

Genesis 12:1-4 (NIV)

19

Genesis 12:1-4 (NIV) 1 of 2



20

Chapter 13: God reiterates the promise to Abraham after he and Lot separate.

21

¹⁴The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west.

¹⁵All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.

¹⁶I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth,

Genesis 13:14-16 (NIV)

22

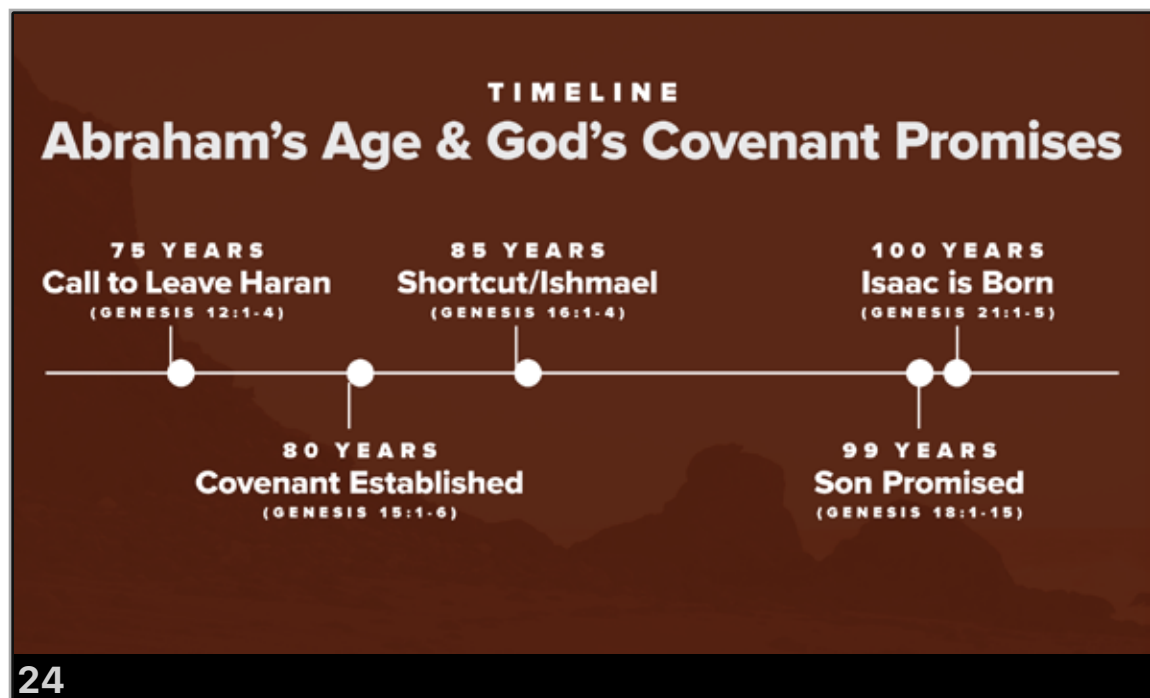
Genesis 13:14-16 (NIV) 1 of 2

So that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted.

Genesis 13:14-16 (NIV)

23

Genesis 13:14-16 (NIV) Last of 2



24

Abraham is somewhere around 80 when God appears to him again (Gen 15) and repeats the promise to him.

25

When God cuts a covenant with Abraham in Genesis 15, Abraham chooses to believe God despite the long wait.

26

⁶Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:6 (NIV)

27

Genesis 15:6 (NIV)

Believed = He 'emin, means "to put complete trust in."

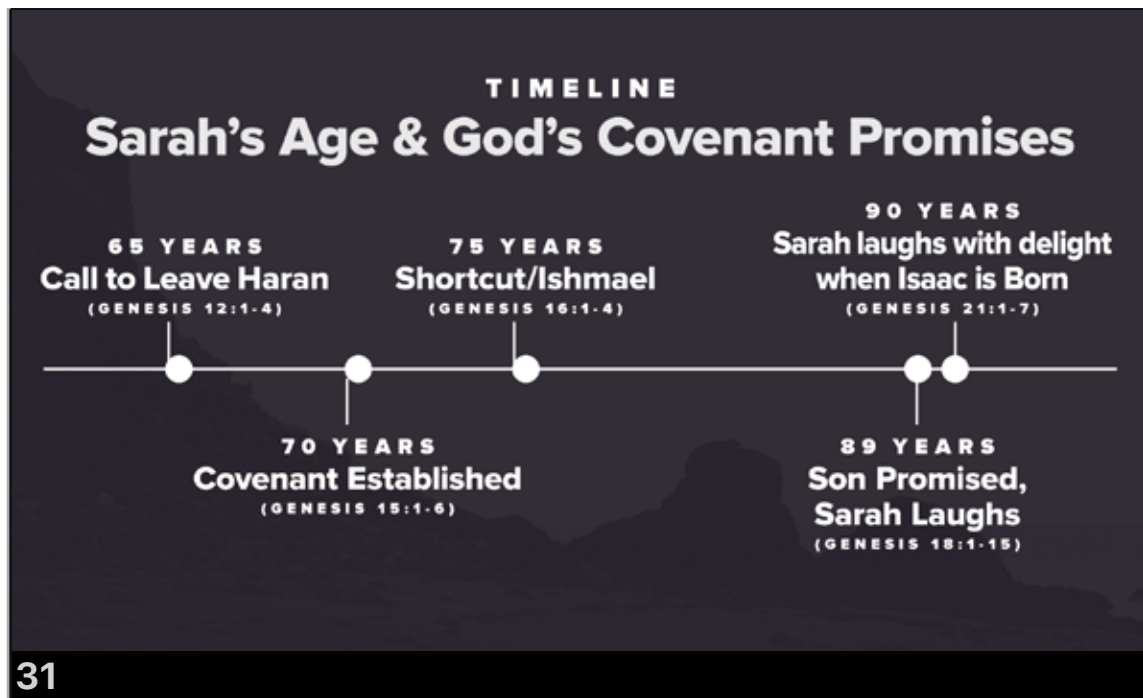
28

Abraham and Sarah are not on the same page when it comes to trusting God or waiting for the promise. Today we focus on Sarah's journey.

29

Sarah's journey of faith takes longer and is understandably more difficult.

30



31

Seasons of waiting are either barriers to faith or the place where our faith matures.

32

²Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,
³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

James 1:2-3 (NIV)

33

James 1:2-3 (NIV)

What do we learn from Abraham and Sarah's VERY LONG season of waiting?

1. Waiting can lead us to question God and try to figure things out ourselves.

34

Abraham responds by assuming
Eliezer will be his heir.

35 Group

¹After this, the word of the Lord came to
Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.
I am your shield,
your very great reward.”

²But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can
you give me since I remain childless and the

Genesis 15:1-3 (NIV)

36

Genesis 15:1-3 (NIV) 1 of 2

One who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?”

³And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

Genesis 15:1-3 (NIV)

37

Genesis 15:1-3 (NIV) Last of 2

⁴Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.”

⁵He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

Genesis 15:4-6 (NIV)

38

Genesis 15:4-6 (NIV) 1 of 2

⁶Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:4-6 (NIV)

39

Genesis 15:4-6 (NIV) Last of 2

What do we learn from Abraham and Sarah's VERY LONG season of waiting?

2. Waiting can lead to impatience and rash decisions.

40

²Enthusiasm without knowledge is no good;
haste makes mistakes.

Proverbs 19:2 (NLT)

41

Proverbs 19:2 (NLT)

Sarah attempts to speed things along
through her servant Hagar.

42

¹Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar;

²so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her."

Abram agreed to what Sarai said.

Genesis 16:1-6 (NIV)

43

Genesis 16:1-6 (NIV) 1 OF 4

³So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife.

⁴He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.

Genesis 16:1-6 (NIV)

44

Genesis 16:1-6 (NIV) 2 OF 4

⁵Then Sarai said to Abram, “You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me.”
⁶“Your slave is in your hands,” Abram said. “Do with her whatever you think best.”

Genesis 16:1-6 (NIV)

45

Genesis 16:1-6 (NIV) 3 OF 4

Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.

Genesis 16:1-6 (NIV)

46

Genesis 16:1-6 (NIV) Last of 4



Ancient bronze age cuneiform tablets from Anatolia (modern day Turkey)

47

“
A deed dating to 1850 BC unearthed in Kanesh, states how a man named Laqipum might gain an heir legally....
“The man, Laqipum, has married the woman Hatala, and if Hatala does not provide him with an heir within 2 years,
”
JB Pritchard, *Ancient Near Eastern Texts in Relation to the Old Testament*

48

Quote 1 of 2

“
Laqipum may not marry another woman, but his wife Hatala may purchase a slave woman who will produce a child by Laipum for her and she may then sell her slave wherever she pleases.

”
JB Pritchard, *Ancient Near Eastern Texts in Relation to the Old Testament*

49

Quote Last of 2

¹⁵So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne.

¹⁶Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

Genesis 16:15-16 (NIV)

50

Genesis 16:15-16 (NIV)

What do we learn from Abraham and Sarah's VERY LONG season of waiting?

3. Waiting can lead to disappointment and to cynicism.

51

⁹They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent."

¹⁰The Lord said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.

¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. Genesis 18:9-15 (ESV)

52

Genesis 18:9-15 (ESV) 1 of 4

The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah.

¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?”

¹³The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Genesis 18:9-15 (ESV)

¹⁴Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

¹⁵But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “No, but you did laugh.”

Genesis 18:9-15 (ESV)

¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?”

Genesis 18:12 (ESV)

55

Genesis 18:12 (ESV) Last of 4

After I am worn out = useless... good for nothing. A very negative word.

56

What does God say to her? When God restates what she says, God edits her statement and removes the reproach.

57

What do we learn from Abraham and Sarah's VERY LONG season of waiting?

4. God's appointed time and our desired time are often much different.

58

There are 13 years between Genesis
15 and Genesis 18.

13 years later (24 years in total)
Abraham is 99 and Sarah is 89 when
God returns (this time for Sarah).

59

¹The Lord appeared to Abraham near the
great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at
the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day.

²Abraham looked up and saw three men
standing nearby. When he saw them, he
hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet
them and bowed low to the ground.

Genesis 18:1-15 (NIV)

60

Genesis 18:1-15 (NIV) 1 of 7

³He said, “If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by.

⁴Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree.

⁵Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant.”

Genesis 18:1-15 (NIV)

61

Genesis 18:1-15 (NIV) 2 of 7

“Very well,” they answered, “do as you say.”

⁶So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah.

“Quick,” he said, “get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread.”

⁷Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant,

Genesis 18:1-15 (NIV)

62

Genesis 18:1-15 (NIV) 3 of 7

Who hurried to prepare it.

⁸He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

⁹“Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him.

Genesis 18:1-15 (NIV)

63

Genesis 18:1-15 (NIV) 4 of 7

“There, in the tent,” he said.

¹⁰Then one of them said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.”

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him.

¹¹Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing.

Genesis 18:1-15 (NIV)

64

Genesis 18:1-15 (NIV) 5 of 7

¹²So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?”

¹³Then the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’

¹⁴Is anything too hard for the Lord?

Genesis 18:1-15 (NIV)

I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”

¹⁵Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, “I did not laugh.”

But he said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

Genesis 18:1-15 (NIV)

¹And the Lord appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day.

²He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth,

Genesis 18:1-3 (ESV)

³And said, “Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant.

Genesis 18:1-3 (ESV)

⁹They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in the tent.”

¹⁰The Lord said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.

¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old,

Genesis 18:9-15 (ESV)

Advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah.

¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?”

¹³The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’”

Genesis 18:9-15 (ESV)

¹⁴Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

¹⁵But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “No, but you did laugh.”

Genesis 18:9-15 (ESV)

Holman Christian Standard Bible:
¹⁴Is anything impossible for the Lord?

¹⁴At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

¹⁵But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “No, but you did laugh.”

Genesis 18:14b-15 (ESV)

73

Genesis 18:14-15 (ESV)

What do we learn from Abraham and Sarah’s VERY LONG season of waiting?

5. God is gracious to Sarah and comes to replace her cynicism and doubt with joy.

74

¹Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised.

Genesis 21:1 (NIV)

75

Genesis 21:1 (NIV)

Like Sarah, we cannot come to him through someone else's experience. Each of us need our own encounter with God.

76

God comes to Sarah in a gentle and personal way.

77

⁹They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in the tent.”

¹⁰The Lord said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.

¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. Genesis 18:9-15 (ESV)

78

Genesis 18:9-15 (ESV) 1 of 3

The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah.

¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?”

¹³The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’”

Genesis 18:9-15 (ESV)

¹⁴Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

¹⁵But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “No, but you did laugh.”

Genesis 18:9-15 (ESV)

Holman Christian Standard Bible:
¹⁴Is anything impossible for the Lord?

81

¹⁴At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

¹⁵But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “No, but you did laugh.”

Genesis 18:14b-15 (ESV)

82

Genesis 18:14-15 (ESV)

Sarah's testimony in the birth of Isaac:

83

²Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.

³Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.

⁴When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. Genesis 21:2-6 (NIV)

84

Genesis 21:2-6 (NIV) 1 of 2

⁵Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

⁶Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.”

Genesis 21:2-6 (NIV)

85

Genesis 21:2-6 (NIV) Last of 2

“God has brought me laughter.”

Sarah goes from cynicism to a testimony of delight.

86

The miraculous birth of Isaac fulfills God's promise to Abraham and Sarah and points to the ultimate fulfillment which comes 2,000 years later, through Mary.

87

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,
²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings,
Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)

88

Luke 1:26-38 (ESV) 1 of 5

O favored one, the Lord is with you!”

²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,

Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)

And you shall call his name Jesus.

³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,

³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)

³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.

³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.”

³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

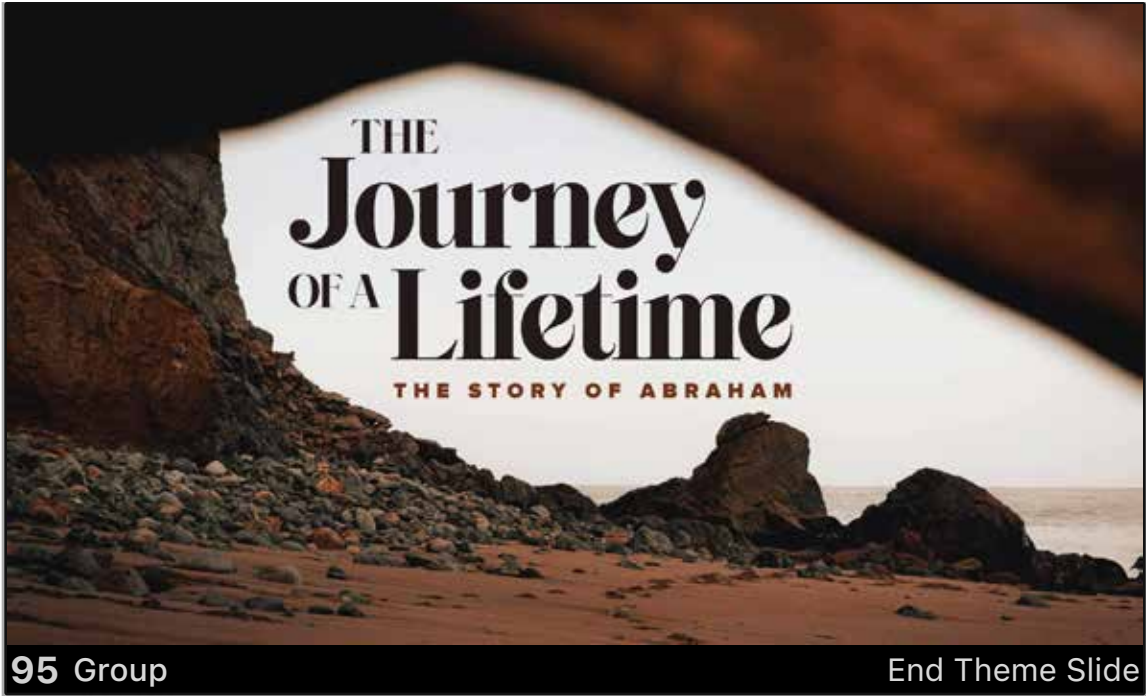
Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)

The whole world would be blessed
through Abraham—BY JESUS.

93

Jesus is the true Isaac. He is the
ultimate one through whom we can
experience the depth of joy that
comes only through God.

94



95 Group

End Theme Slide