

El Shaddai

Genesis 17:1-8

Taking it Home:

1. In the “Reasons to trust” section of the outline, which is most meaningful to you? How might these impact your week?

2. As you pray, ask the Lord to help you trust:
 - God’s power when circumstances appear impossible
 - God’s wisdom when his answer differs from yours
 - God’s timing when waiting becomes difficult
 - God’s grace when past choices bring regret

Prayer Concerns:**The story of Abraham**

El Shaddai means: _____ or _____

The walk of obedience**The reasons to trust**

1. Nothing can _____ the _____

2. God’s _____ is _____ than _____

3. We avoid _____

The redemption of our missteps

Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. What is something relatively insignificant that you find difficult to wait for? Why is waiting so uncomfortable for us?

Digging Deeper:

Read Genesis 12: 1-4, 15:1-6, 16:1-4, 17: 1-8

1. What were God's promises to Abraham? Notice how often God says, "I will". What does this repetition emphasize? Why is this considered an unconditional covenant?
2. What is Abraham's greatest fear in this story? Why was this such a concern to him? How did he handle his fears? How do you respond similarly or differently with your own?
3. Read Genesis 15:6. Why was Abraham credited as righteous? What did Abraham DO to bring this about?
Read Galatians 3: 6-9 and Ephesians 2:8-9. Why is justification by faith critical to the Christian? What is the alternative and why doesn't it work?

4. The message told us that God's wisdom is better than our plans. Can you recall a time when God's delay, redirection, or "no" eventually proved wiser than what you originally wanted?
5. Why does God use the name El Shaddai (All-Powerful, All-Sufficient God) when meeting with Abraham in Genesis 17? Why was this necessary given the circumstances? How does this name encourage you in your current dreams, desires, and details of life?
6. Read Genesis 21 1-3. What is revealed about God's character in this passage? Though Abraham and Sarah failed to wait for God's plan to unfold, God did not reject using them to fulfill his covenantal plan. How might their story encourage you or someone you know?