

TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?...

A Video Bible Study Series

(John 6:68, NIV)

EPISODE 1 – JOY IN GOD’S PROMISES

JOY IN GOD SERIES (GENESIS 18:1-15; 21:1-7)

- Having joy in God means that you praise Him with your whole heart, even when it’s hard.
- **Romans 15:13**; *“May the God who gives hope fill you with great joy. May you have perfect peace as you trust in Him. May the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with hope.”*
- Having joy is trusting that God is in control and He will use the experiences in your life, both good and bad, to make His will known. Having joy for God comes from the Holy Spirit working in our hearts.
- This lesson focuses on having joy in God’s promises. This lesson is found in the book of **Genesis, chapters 18 and 21**.
- There was a man named Abraham. God told him to leave his home country and go to the land God showed him. God later made a covenant with Abraham. A covenant means a holy promise. He told Abraham that his family who came after him would be as numerous as the stars in the sky.
- God planned for Abraham to become the father of a great nation of people. These people would be known as the Israelites. It would be from the nation of Israel that God’s only Son, Jesus Christ, would come.



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- We have all made promises to others. Sometimes we keep them, and sadly sometimes we don't. As sinful people our promises can be broken. But does God keep His promises? YES! God is perfect and holy. So, when He makes a promise, He will always keep it.
- This is joyful news for us! From the very first sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, God planned to send His Son Jesus to save us from our sins. It was through Abraham's family that God's promise was fulfilled. We have joy knowing how much God loves us!
- Abraham had faith in God, but he also had some doubts. He did not have any children, and he and his wife Sarah were old. Abraham did not know how he was to become the father of a great nation with no children. But God had a plan.
- **Genesis chapter 18** says that God appeared to Abraham near the large trees of Mamre. Abraham was sitting at the entrance to his tent. It was the hottest time of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. He hurried over and bowed low to the ground.
- He said, *"My lord, if you are pleased with me, don't pass me by. Let me get you some water. Then all of you can wash your feet and rest under this tree. Let me get you something to eat to give you strength. Then you can go on your way."*
- The three men agreed. Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. *"Quick!"* he said. *"Get about 36 pounds of the finest flour. Prepare it and bake some bread."*
- Abraham ran over to the herd. He picked out a tender calf. He gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. Then he brought some butter and milk and the calf that had been prepared. He served them to the three men. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.
- *"Where is your wife Sarah?"* they asked him. *"Over there in the tent,"* he said.

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- Then one of the men said, *"I will surely return to you about this time next year. Your wife Sarah will have a son."*

- Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. Sarah was too old to have a baby. She laughed to herself. She thought, *“I’m worn out, and my husband is old. Can I really know the joy of having a baby?”*
- Then the Lord said to Abraham, *“Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, ‘Will I really have a baby, now that I am old?’ Is anything too hard for me? I will return to you at this time next year. Sarah will have a son.”*
- Sarah was afraid. So she lied and said, *“I didn’t laugh.”* But the Lord said, *“Yes, you laughed.”*
- Here was another promise God made to Abraham, that his wife Sarah would have a son. And does God always keep His promises? YES!
- Sarah laughed because she thought it was impossible for her to have a baby at her age. But Jesus said in **Matthew 19:26**; *“With people, this is impossible. But with God, all things are possible.”*
- In **Genesis chapter 21** we learn that the Lord did for Sarah what He had promised to do. Sarah became pregnant. The child was born at the exact time God had promised. Abraham gave his son the name Isaac. He was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born to him.
- Sarah said, *“God has given laughter to me. Everyone who hears about this will laugh with me. I’ve had a son by Abraham when he is old.”*
- Abraham and Sarah had joy that God gave them a son in their old age. They thought it was impossible, but all things are possible with God.

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- God kept His promise to make Abraham the father of a great nation of people, the Israelites. Many years later, an angel named Gabriel appeared to a young woman named Mary and announced that she would have a son. Like Abraham and Sarah, Mary had doubts at first because she was a virgin. But all things are possible with God!

- Mary gave birth to a son and named Him Jesus. This was the Son of God, and His mission was to save us from our sins by dying on a cross and rising three days later.
- God kept His promise to Abraham by making his family into a great nation. God kept His promise in giving Abraham's wife Sarah a son in her old age. And God kept His promise to us by sending His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins so that we may have eternal life with Him. We have joy knowing that God always keeps His promises!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who gives you joy for God?

- Having joy in God comes from the Holy Spirit working in our hearts. We praise God with our whole hearts, even when it's hard.

2. What did God promise Abraham He would do?

- God promised Abraham that He would make his family who came after him as numerous as the stars in the sky. These people would be known as the Israelites. God planned that His Son, Jesus Christ, would come from the nation of Israel.

3. Does God keep His promises?

- YES! God is perfect and holy. When He makes a promise, He will always keep it. It was through Abraham's family that God promised to send His Son Jesus to save us from our sins.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED

4. The Lord was one of the three men who came to visit Abraham. What did He promise would happen to Abraham's wife, Sarah?

- The Lord promised to return that time next year and Sarah would have a son.

5. How did Sarah react to this news, and why?

- Sarah laughed when she heard that she would have a son. She laughed because she was too old to have children, and thought it was impossible.

PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. How can you have joy in God's promises?

- Read God's Word and learn about the promises He has made. Rejoice knowing that He loves you and wants you to have faith in Him. Surround yourself with other believers in Christian community and share your joy for God.

2. What are some ways you can share your joy in God with others?

- Invite them to church or Friendship group. Introduce them to other believers in your Christian community. Tell them how much you love God, and the promises He has made and kept.

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