

# LONGING FOR JESUS THROUGH ABRAHAM



Share how this second week of the Advent Guide has gone at your house.

What are some plans/things you're doing in order to make the most of this Advent season?

Discuss some opportunities that may exist for you as a Life Group this Advent (pp.4-5 of the Guide).

*\*Feel free to discuss questions from Week 2 of the Advent Guide in addition to or in place of this Sermon Study Guide*

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## OPENING COMMENT

God, out of sheer grace, called Abram and named him Abraham. He renamed him 'father of a multitude' before he and Sarah even had a child together, promising him innumerable descendants. There would come through the line of Abraham one particular child of promise, Jesus the Messiah, God's own Son.

What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

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## READ THE TEXT: Genesis 17:1-7

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, <sup>2</sup>that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.



## PART I: Abram to Abraham

### JESUS SATISFIES OUR LONGING FOR IDENTITY

1. What have you looked to — other than Jesus — to define you? What sort of work have you wrapped your identity in?
2. God changed Abraham's name to 'father of a multitude' *before* he and Sarah even had a son. God declared who he was, and that's who he was and who he would become. Abraham simply had faith. He believed God (Gen 15:6; Heb 11:8, 9, 17).
3. Is our identity in Jesus based on our doing or God's declaring of who we are in Jesus? Who are we in Christ? (2 Cor 5:17; Eph 2:8)

## PART II: Abraham Rejoiced

### JESUS IS THE SOURCE OF THE JOY WE ALL LONG FOR

1. Share some of the most joyful moments of your lives.
2. Read Galatians 3:16. Why is Jesus the *offspring* in view and how does Jesus fulfill the *promise* made to Abraham and a multitude of nations?
3. Read John 8:56. What was the cause of Abraham's greatest *rejoicing* and *gladness*?
4. How is Jesus the source of the joy we all long for?
5. How does it look practically to look to Jesus as the source of all joy?
6. In what way can Christmas (Incarnation, God in the flesh) produce joy in Jesus?

## SHARE & PRAY

- Take some time to thank God for the identity He gives us in Jesus.
- Thank God for sending His Son Jesus and for the joy that the gospel brings your lives.
- Pray *big* prayers, asking God to work in mighty, redemptive, gospel-advancing ways this Advent season.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another and the needs among you.

