



## Week 1

**Text:** Genesis 17:1–10, 15–21

**Topic(s):** Faith, Obedience, God's Plan

**Big Idea of the Message:** God's calling of Abraham and Sarah to trust him for their future and for that of later generations sets the stage for God's greatest work of drawing all people to himself through Jesus.

**Application Point:** Sometimes God's calling for our lives seems outlandish, but if he calls us, then we can trust him for the final outcome.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. What are two times in your life when you knew God was calling you to trust his leading? How did they turn out?
3. Why do you think Abraham and Sarah had such a difficult time trusting God's plan? In what ways have you been tested as Abraham and Sarah were in trusting God's leading?
4. How important was the covenant vision/dream that Abraham had in Genesis 15? How would it set the stage for God's forthcoming new name for Abram and Sarai?
5. What does it mean to you to know that Abraham's obedience set the stage for Jesus's coming to offer you a place among God's children?
6. Think of three people that God has placed on your heart who need salvation. How does the story of Abraham and Sarah include them?
7. How can we pray for you?



## Week 2

**Text:** Genesis 25:19-28; 32:22-32

**Topic(s):** Fear, Persistence, God's Sovereignty

**Big Idea of the Message:** Jacob was a trickster and manipulator whose decisions finally caught up to him; but it was in that moment when he experienced a redemptive act of God.

**Application Point:** We are called to trust God with all that his plan entails. However, along the way, we will wrestle with God as we try to understand that plan.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. The story of Jacob is filled with several turns and missteps which eventually lead to his new identity as Israel. In what ways did these situations help set the stage for him to be more receptive to God's leading? Why do you think it took so long for him to respond?
3. As Jacob prepares to meet his brother Esau, he is scared for the outcome. What do you sense was his greatest concern? How was this concern different from when he initially was running from Esau after stealing Isaac's blessing?
4. In Genesis 32:9–12, Jacob prays for God's direction. What are his key prayers? How does his response to the all-night wrestling match point back to his prayer?
5. What blessing did Jacob receive from the strange man? Why was this considered a blessing?
6. What do you sense was the purpose for the Lord wounding Jacob following the wrestling match? Is there anything in your life that God has "wounded" you with after you had wrestled with him?
7. How can we pray for you?



### Week 3

**Text:** John 1:40-42, Matthew 16:13-20

**Topic(s):** Faith, Trusting God, Hearing from God

**Big Idea of the Message:** Jesus's question to his disciples ("Who do people say that Son of Man is?") invites Peter to stand firm on the conviction that Jesus is the Messiah of the Lord.

**Application Point:** We may not always understand what God calls us to when we confess that Jesus is Lord, but we can be confident that, as we stand, God will stand both for us and with us at the same time.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Jesus called Simon "Peter" from the very beginning. What does this say about Jesus's vision for Peter?
3. How do the responses of the disciples about Jesus's identity speak to what people were expecting in the first century? Are people still saying similar things about Jesus today? What are they saying?
4. Jesus challenges the disciples to answer the questions for themselves. How does Peter's response speak to the need for confidence when speaking about Jesus? How does it challenge you today?
5. Peter calls Jesus the Savior, the Son of the living God. Jesus affirms this and then says that his church will be built on the rock of faith. How does this speak to you today? What does it say to you about the importance of faith?
6. How can we pray for you?



## Week 4

**Text:** John 1:10-13; Revelation 2:12-17

**Topic(s):** Redemption, Promises, Relationship with God

**Big Idea of the Message:** Each of the churches John received messages for in the book of Revelation have specific calls and expectations, but in two of the churches, John references a new name that those who conquer will receive once they have completed their task.

**Application Point:** The ultimate end of the message of Revelation is “Jesus wins”; we share in his victory and will receive great rewards, the greatest of which is eternity as his children, symbolized by a new name.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week’s message?
2. What does it mean to know that those who believe in the name of Jesus are considered children of God? What does that say about the power of Jesus to unite people?
3. Being called “children of God” is not something we should take lightly. Describe what it means to be considered a son or daughter of God. How are we as believers different from Jesus as children of God? Why is this important to keep in mind?
4. Consider the angel’s warning to the churches at Pergamum. What seemed to be some of the issues the churches were facing? How are these issues similar to what we face today?
5. What does the angel say has to happen for the churches to get the situation corrected? If the angel were to speak to our congregation today, what might sin might we be called to correct?
6. Living as a believer is not simply about my actions only but requires attention to the actions of the body as well. How can we be sure to focus on both?
7. How can we pray for you?