

Covenant Confirmed and Clarified

Genesis 17:1-27

Day 1 Read Gen 17:1-8 Remember our name

1. Last week we saw Abram and Sarah try to “**shortcut the pain**” in the faith building process by being either **impatient or passive**. How did you do this week in **a) recognizing your tendency** and **b) enduring the short-term pain** (Jas 1:2-6)? _____

2. God introduces Himself in this passage as “**El Shaddai**” or “**God Almighty**”. This name for God is used **48 times** in the Old Testament with **31** of those being in **Job**. In a sentence or two, **describe what attributes** God is conveying to His children through this name. _____

3. God is going to give a **confirmation** of the promise through **changing Abram’s name** and giving him a **sign**. However, with this confirmation, God requires a **commitment to “walk before Me and be blameless”**. What does this phrase mean? _____

4. In the same way, we are saved by faith alone, and yet genuine faith is not an “**agreement with a set of facts**”, but rather involves a “**commitment to follow Christ**”. How would you explain this to a friend who was holding onto a “**decision for Christ**” but their life never reflected a change? What verses would you use? _____

Day 2 Read Gen 17:1-8 Remember our name

1. Changing someone’s name was an **exercise in lordship** over that individual. What **message** was God sending Abram? Give **another Biblical example** of this exercise of sovereignty in one’s life. _____

2. Abram’s name “**exalted father**” was changed to “**father of a multitude**”. Compare the purpose of these two names and explain how the shift gives **God the glory**. _____

3. Read **Acts 11:26**. How has our name change (you may use either disciples or Christians) intended to reflect “**who we are**”? How has it **lost its meaning in western civilization**? _____

Day 3 Read Gen 17:9-14 Remember we are set apart

1. Circumcision was a sign of the **promise** and a sign of an individual's **commitment**. Explain **how this sign** was both a reminder of what God was going to do and what His people were obliged to do. _____

2. What is the **difference** between the **recipients of the Old Covenant** and the **recipients of the New?** (Gen 17:10, Neh 9:26, Rom 11:5, Jer 31:33) _____

3. What is the **sign of the New Covenant?** (Lk 22:19-20) _____
4. What is **another sign** of the New Covenant? (Acts 2:41) What are the **parallels and differences** with circumcision? _____

5. Why don't we **baptize infants?** _____

Day 4 Read Gen 17:15-21 Remember God does the impossible

1. God Almighty promises the **impossible**. How has He done that with you? _____

2. What are we **really saying about God** when we doubt? What are we saying **about ourselves?** _____

Day 5 Read Gen 17:22-27 Respond in obedience

1. Abraham responded in obedience **"that very day"**. In what areas have you **rationalized a delay** in obedience? What helped you realize that it was **disobedience?** _____

2. Genuine faith is a commitment to Christ **"without reservation"** (Mark 8:34). While we as Christians stumble, a mark of this saving faith is **daily repentance** before God and man. Explain **what this looks like** in the body of Christ. _____

