

FLAWED BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Hebrews 11:11-12
Pastor Alan Dionson
January 21, 2024

INTRO:

1. The song that was misinterpreted
2. The story that was missed

A. ABRAHAM'S JOURNEY

1. Abram's **call** from Ur to Canaan (12:1-3)
2. Abram's **compromise** by redirecting to Egypt (12:10-20)
3. Abram's **conviction** to choose God's will (13:14-16)
4. Abraham's **covenant** with God (17:1-8)
5. Abraham's **conformity** to God's plan (18:1-2)

B. SARAH'S JOURNEY

1. Sarai's **situation** of being barren (16:1)
2. Sarai's quick-fix **solution** (16:2-6)
3. Sarah was **sought** by God (17:15-16; 18:6-9)
4. Sarah's **sunken** response (18:9-14)
5. Sarah's role and **success** in God's redemptive plan (21:1-3)

CONCLUSION

1. Be **faithful** to God's promise (Galatians 6:9)
2. Be **patient** and avoid a quick fix. (Proverbs 3:5-6)
3. Be **confident** that God has not forgotten you. (Psalm 27:13-14)
4. Be still and know that God will be faithful to **complete** it. (Philippians 1:6)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Icebreaker: If you are married or in a relationship, share how you met your partner for the first time.
2. Our discussion is about Abram and Sarai, but will be focusing more on Sarai, whose story is frequently missed due to her husband's primary role in God's redemptive story. God called Abraham to leave Ur, and as he was about to settle in Canaan, he discovered there was a famine. As a result, he redirected his course to Egypt. While in Egypt, his lie about Sarai almost cost him his marriage. Abram was remorseful and built an altar in Bethel to recommit and follow God wholeheartedly. In the ensuing chapters, we see Abram conforming to God's plan and becoming a changed man. God gave him a new name from Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (father of many nations).
3. In this narrative, Sarai was just a supporting cast until we arrive in Genesis chapters 16-18. Let's begin our reading on Genesis 16:1-5. *What did Sarai do and what were the consequences of that decision? What prompted Sarai to make this decision? How does this passage teach us about the importance of waiting for God's answer?*
4. Read Genesis 17:3-8 and 17:15-16. *How is God's covenant with Abram and Sarai similar? How are they different? Why did God wait for them to be in their older years (25 years after the initial call in the land of Ur) to tell them that they would have a child? Why would God sometimes delay His answers to His promises? Did this happen to you...and what have you learned about God, about yourself, and the outcome of your situation?*
5. Read Genesis 18:1-9. *Who do you think are these strangers and what was their reason for visiting Abraham and Sarah? Was this visit more about Abraham or about Sarah? Sometimes we think we are too flawed and forgotten, how does this verse reveal God's character to seek us in our doubts and discouragement?*

6. Read Genesis 18:10-15. The contrast of our human and divine responses can be observed from this passage. *Why did Sarah laugh after the visitors announced that she would have a child? What was the response visitor's response after hearing Sarah laugh? Why is it hard to believe in God's promises and how should we maintain our trust in Him after a very long delay?*

7. Read Genesis 21:1-7. *How has Sarah transformed in this part of the couple's story? What character of God is revealed from this passage?*

8. The story of Abraham is not just about God's faithfulness to him, but also to Sarah. Share in your Life Group how your marriage can be strengthened this year. Conclude the meeting by praying for one another.