

# GENESIS 17





# Small Group Guide: God's Mission and Our Response

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# Opening Prayer



**The opening prayer is a way for us to invite God into our time together, center our hearts on Him, and prepare ourselves for the discussions ahead. This is an opportunity to thank God for His presence, ask for His guidance and wisdom, and open our hearts to what He wants to teach us.**

Feel free to keep your prayer simple and conversational, as if you're talking directly to a close friend. If you're unsure what to say, focus on gratitude, ask for clarity and connection, and trust that God hears your heart.

Helpful Prayer Prompt:

- Thank God for bringing the group together and the opportunity to grow in faith.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to lead and guide your conversations.
- Ask for open hearts, wisdom, and encouragement for each person in the group.

# Scripture Reading

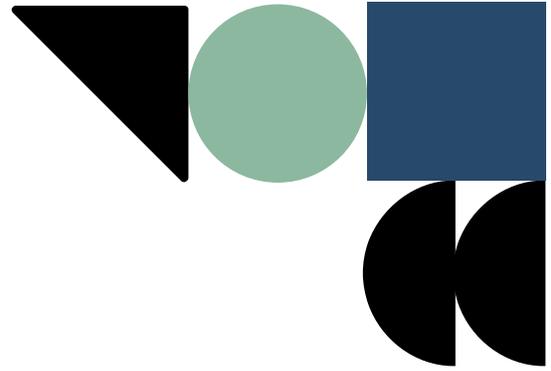


## Genesis 17

Today, we delve into the powerful story of Abraham in Genesis 17, exploring God's covenant and the profound changes it brought. We see how God, the Almighty, places Abraham on a divine mission, proclaiming new names for both Abraham and Sarah. This name change signifies a transformation of character and purpose, reminding us that God can radically change us from the inside out.

The introduction of circumcision as a physical mark of God's people parallels the spiritual mark of the Holy Spirit in believers today. This passage challenges us to consider: Are we living in God's presence daily? Are we allowing Him to transform us and use us for His mission? It's a call to recognize God's power to change us, seal us with His Spirit, and involve us in His grand plan of redemption.



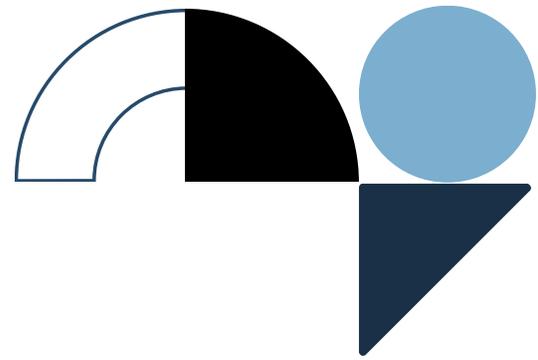


# Key Takeaways

**God is almighty and includes us in His mission**

**God can change us from the inside out**

**The Holy Spirit marks and empowers believers**



# Discussion Questions

1. The pastor emphasized that we must "live in God's presence and be devout." What does this mean to you practically? How can we cultivate an awareness of God's presence in our daily lives?
2. The sermon discussed God changing Abram and Sarai's names. How has God changed you since becoming a believer? Are there areas where you still desire change?
3. How does the concept of circumcision as a physical mark relate to the Holy Spirit's role in our lives today? What evidence of the Holy Spirit do you see in your own life?
4. The pastor stated, "God has plans for you." How does this truth impact your perspective on your life and purpose? Are you currently seeking God's plans for you?
5. What obstacles prevent you from fully yielding control to the Holy Spirit in your life? How can we overcome these barriers?
6. The sermon emphasized the importance of growing in faith. What spiritual disciplines or practices have you found most helpful in your own growth? How can we encourage one another in this area?





# Practical Applications

1. Daily Presence: Commit to spending intentional time in God's presence each day this week through prayer, Bible reading, or worship.
2. Mission Mindset: Identify one person in your life who needs to hear the Gospel. Pray for an opportunity to share with them this week.
3. Yielding to the Spirit: Choose one area of your life where you struggle to surrender control. Ask the Holy Spirit for help in yielding this area to God.
4. Growth Plan: Develop a personal plan for spiritual growth. This could include setting aside specific times for prayer, joining a Bible study, or finding an accountability partner.
5. Community Impact: Brainstorm ways your small group can serve and reach out to your local community, putting God's mission into practice.



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# Closing Prayer

Encourage group members to share prayer requests and pray for one another, asking God to help each person live more fully in His presence and on mission for Him.