



## Walking in the *Foot Prints* of Jesus A Discipleship Journey

*The OLD TESTAMENT*- Their Story is Our Story  
Abraham and Sarah- Week 6  
Genesis Chapters 15- 21

God called Abram, a righteous man, to take his wife and kinsfolk and go to a land that the Lord would show them. God is asking Abram to trust Him, to leave everything he knows and go into the unknown. God promises them many riches including livestock, silver and gold, as well as that they will have abundant descendants, as numerous as the stars in the sky, if only they will trust Him. Abram believes God's promise and does as God wishes.

In time Abram and Sarai begin to doubt God's promise of descendants. They are both very old. How could they have many descendants if Sarai is barren? Even though they are righteous and love God and are favored by God, they have lost some trust in God. They take matters into their own hands and Abram fathers a child, Ishmael, by Sarai's handmaid. Abram loves Ishmael but Sarai is jealous and deals harshly with the mother and son. God is merciful and provides for them and promises that Ishmael will also have numerous descendants but the covenant with the Israelites will be fulfilled through the child of Abram and Sarai. God forgives Abram and Sarai's impatience and lack of trust and renews His covenant. God changes Abram's name to Abraham, signifying that he will be a father of many nations. God also changes Sarai's name to Sarah. (When God changes a name in the Bible it usually means that this is a significant event in that person's life. They become closer to God.) Sarah does conceive a child and gives birth to Isaac. It is through Isaac that God's covenant with the Israelites will continue. God's promise is fulfilled. God is faithful to His promises, even when we lose trust in Him.

Last week we discussed that God answers our prayers in His own time and in His own way. This is another example of how God did this. Abraham and Sarah were righteous people. They were hand chosen by God to become the parents of a great nation. Yet they were human and they became impatient with God and doubted that God could fulfill the promise He made to them. God was merciful and forgave them and fulfilled His promise anyway.

God promises to be with us as well. Yet we get impatient with God. We lose trust in this promise and take matter into our own hands. We do things we know are wrong and against what God would want us to do in hopes that in the end it will turn out right. God forgives us for our lack of trust and continues to hear us and be with us.

Think about something in your life that you feel impatient about. Ask God to help you find a solution.