

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Lesson Video: God's Story: Abraham and Sarah, Crossroads Kids' Club, <https://youtu.be/NdqrwGJYePQ>
Spiritual Circumcision - Name Change of Abraham & Sarah, https://youtu.be/nY_xPjuf3Rc

Talk About It:

1. Why does God change people's names in the bible?
2. What is the covenant God makes with Abraham?
3. Why wait until Abraham and Sarah are old to make the covenant?
4. What is the significance of a covenant?
5. What kinds of covenants do we make with God and one another now?
6. How do these covenants effect our life day to day?
7. How can we relate to Abram and Sarai?



Challenge: If you changed your name, what name would you choose for yourself and why?

Notes:

Name changes signify a change in one's life. They happen right before important events. In the old testament we see this happen several times. In Genesis alone Jacob's name changes to Israel, Joseph, the dreamer to Zaphenath-Paneah. (his Egyptian name) The list keeps growing. Some names are changed by God, others by religious leaders and even Kings. We still find this today in celebrities and people who reinvent themselves to become who they are meant to be. Names are given to us at birth and sometimes these names don't fit who we have become. This tells us one important fact. Names are important and have meaning for those who carry them. *For a list of name changes in the bible go to: <https://godwords.org/name-changes-in-the-bible/>

Mark 8:31-38

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."



Lesson Video: Australian animated Bible stories - Mark 8:31-38, <https://youtu.be/G1DdKxN-k8U>
WordBoard.org - What Is a Disciple of Jesus? (Mark 8:34), <https://youtu.be/HyaOJxXpN7g>

Talk About It

1. Why was Peter upset with Jesus when he said he would suffer?
2. Why did Jesus say to Peter, "Get behind me Satan"?
3. What did Jesus tell the crowd?
4. What does it mean to take up their cross?
5. What does Jesus say you will gain by "taking up your cross"?

Challenge: Share with the group how you would show Christianity without offending others.

Notes: When I was growing up this chapter and verse was used to let us know that being a Christian meant we had to earn salvation by works. It was only after I became an adult that I learned that as Christians salvation is a free gift given by Christ. Salvation by works wasn't something I could earn but that being Christ-like was a gift I could give others through service, charity, compassion and love. When Jesus says to take up the cross and follow him it wasn't to earn salvation but to understand love by giving up your life for others in service and care.