

# Living in Covenant - Righteousness

## Small Group Discussion Guide // February 4, 2018

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that you heard for the first time or that challenged, intrigued, surprised, bothered, or confused you?
2. Pastor Leon began his message by having the children read Genesis 11:30-12:9. In the beginning of this passage we learned that Abram and Sarai didn't have any children and that Sarai wasn't able to conceive. Sarai's barrenness was a devastating and seemingly hopeless situation for their family. Why was Sarai's barrenness such a huge issue for her and Abram? Where do you see "barrenness" or brokenness in people's lives today?
3. Immediately after we read that Abram and Sarai can't have children to carry on their family name (Genesis 11:30), we read that God tells Abraham to "go from your country and your kindred and your father's house" (Genesis 12:1). God asked Abraham to leave the land he is familiar with. He is to leave his people and his home. God is requiring total obedience. Abraham is making a great sacrifice, but what comes from this is a great blessing. Immediately after saying this to Abraham, God follows with a number of promises to Abraham. How do each of these promises correlate with the sacrifices that Abram was making? What does this teach us about God?
4. Throughout scripture we find stories of barrenness. Read the following passages and look for the barrenness or brokenness in each of the stories:
  - Genesis 15:1-6
  - John 8:1-11
  - 1 Peter 1:6-7How does God use brokenness to change someone's heart? Why is it often necessary for one to be broken before receiving the blessing(s) that God has for him/her?
5. What do the following verses say about how a person is made righteous before God?
  - Habakkuk 2:4
  - Romans 1:17
  - Galatians 3:1-7
6. When God calls us out of barrenness and into life, it often requires a great deal of trust in His faithfulness. Pastor Leon told the story of the great tightrope walker, Charles Blondin, and how just before he attempted to cross Niagra Falls, he asked the crowd of onlookers if they thought he could do this stunt while pushing someone in a wheel barrel. Everyone enthusiastically cheered "Yes! We believe you can do it", but when he asked for volunteers to get in the wheel barrel, no one came forward. How could the tightrope walker story represent our faith in God? Figuratively speaking, what keeps people from trusting God enough to get in the wheel barrel?
7. This God that made a covenant with Abram and Sarai is the same God that calls us to leave our hopelessness, our darkness, our despair, and our barrenness and receive his LIFE. This often requires us to take steps to abandon those things in life that lead to barrenness. It is a call to a dangerous departure from the presumed world of norms and security. Are there opportunities in your life to abandon "barrenness" and receive life? What is a first step you can take in receiving that life?
8. Looking back on this week's teaching and study, what is the most important thing for you to remember?