



## **Growth Group Discussion Guide**

**Passage:** *Genesis 17*

**Introduction:** In Genesis 16 we read about Abram's failure to trust God by seeking to bear a child through Hagar, the Egyptian slave. After 13 years of silence, God appears again to Abram to reaffirm His covenant grace. This passage challenges us to consider the significance of God's covenant sign and the abundance of His grace even when we have been unfaithful to Him.



### **Into the Word**

God relates to His people through covenants. **Read Hebrews 6:13-18.** Why does God relate to us through covenants?

Note: [What Is a Covenant?](#)

God's covenant with Abram is *unilateral, eternal, and deeply personal*. Where in this passage do you see these aspects of God's covenant? How are these an expression of God's grace?

Note: Notice God's use of "I will" or the "I have" (v. 4-8)

God gave Abraham the covenant sign of circumcision. What is the purpose of a covenant sign? (e.g. wedding rings, circumcision, etc.) How does this help us understand the covenant sign of baptism?

Consider: Romans 4:11, Acts 2:38-39

How does circumcision point to the atoning work of Christ?

Consider: Hebrews 9:22



### **Into the Heart**

*Abram's faith found expression through his devotion to God.* Is your devotion to God evident in areas of your life that are deeply personal? What aspects of your life are you withholding from God? How is this affecting your relationship with God?

Have you been baptized? How might reflecting on your baptism strengthen your faith?



### **Into the World**

At the heart of God's covenant with us are the words, "I will be your God and you will be my people" (Gen 17:7). How does gathering together for worship on Sunday expand our witness in the world to God's covenant grace?