

When El-Shaddai Changes Your Name

Scripture: Genesis 16:1-16

Also: Genesis 15:5-6; 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Questions

1. What has challenged you, changed you or confused you from this week's sermon or the Scriptures in it?
2. This week, from the story about God changing Abram's name to Abraham, we learned that:
 - God invites us to be faithful to the covenant
 - God guarantees His promises to the faithful by giving Abraham a new name
 - God demands that His people be set apart for the covenant
 - God plans to fulfill His promises in ways that seem impossible
3. When it comes to names, what does the Bible say about God knowing us?
 - Read Exodus 33:17; Isaiah 43:1-2; 49:1; Jeremiah 1:5; John 10:3, 14-15; Matthew 10:29-31.
 - You don't need to share these, but what are some things that God knows about you that no one else does?
4. Covenant language is not as familiar to us today; it can be described as a contract, but with love, heart, relationship.
 - What contracts are you in? (A house payment, a lease on a car, etc)
 - What covenants are you in? (family, friends, etc)
 - When you think about having an agreement with God, and on His end is unlimited knowledge, power, and presence, how does that impact you?
5. What are some promises from the Bible that are important to you?
6. Read Galatians 5:6. Circumcision (as a sign of the old covenant) has been replaced in the New Testament by "faith working through love". Described another way, it's having a heart circumcision. The questions asked at the conclusion of the sermon are a great place to end discussion.
 - Am I circumcised in heart?
 - Am I faithful to the covenant?
 - Do I trust God's promises even when their fulfillment seems impossible?