

The Gospel According to Abraham, Part 7
Gen. 18:6-15; 21:1-7

Getting Started

- ❖ Share a time in your life when God surprised or blessed you in such a way that your heart was filled with joy and worship.

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. The Skeptical Laughter of Unbelief (18:6-15)
2. The Joyous Laughter of True Worship (21:1-7)

Takeaway Truth: Joyful laughter and worship comes by recognizing God's faithfulness and goodness to us.

Digging Deeper

- ❖ Revisit the sermon and sermon outline, read the sermon texts and answer the following:
 - How does the concept of a theophany influence your understanding of God and the Old Testament?
 - How did Sarah respond to the renewal of the promise? Why?
 - Did Sarah's doubt and denial thwart God's plan? How is that a comfort to you?
 - How does God's response to Sarah's lie shape your understanding of God?
 - What does the name Isaac mean? Why was that such an appropriate name for Abraham's child?
 - In what ways was the birth of Isaac like the birth of Jesus? In what ways were they different?
 - In what way did Ishmael's welfare depend on his response to Isaac? In what way does your welfare depend on your response to another child of promise, Jesus Christ?

Apply It!

- ❖ Right now, would you say you are more on the Skeptical Laughter of Unbelief end of the continuum or the Joyful Laughter of Worship end of the continuum?
- ❖ When was the last time you "laughed" (though not necessarily outwardly) at the provision of God, or the last time you were surprised and overjoyed by grace? Is this a normal experience for you? Or do most of your provisions seem to come only as a result of your efforts?
- ❖ Has God been asking you to do something that does not seem to make sense? What is it? Are there specific Bible promises that relate to your situation?

Think About It!

Unbelief is not a misfortune to be pitied; it is a sin to be deplored. Its sinfulness lies in the fact that it contradicts the word of the one true God and thus attributes falsehood to him. (John Stott)

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NOTE: Study questions for this year's annual theme are derived either directly or indirectly from a number of sources. These Covenant Group studies are indebted to the works of Dr. John Walton, Dr. Derek Kidner, Dr. Bruce Waltke, Dr. James Boice, Dr. Ian Duguid, Dr. Warren Wiersbe, and Dr. Tim Keller.

WORSHIP RESOURCE

March 7, 2021 | Third Sunday in Lent

WORSHIP SONGS

THIS IS AMAZING GRACE

Words by Phil Wickham and Jeremy Riddle, 2013

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness, whose love is mighty and so much stronger? The King of glory, the King above all kings. Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder, who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder? The King of glory, the King above all kings.

This is amazing grace; this is unfailing love that you would take my place, that you would bear my cross. You laid down your life that I would be set free. Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me.

Who brings the chaos back into order, who makes the orphan a son and daughter? The King of glory, the King of glory. Who rules the nations with truth and justice, shines like the sun in all of its brilliance? The King of glory, the King above all kings.

CHAIN BREAKER

Words and Music by Zach Williams, 2015

If you've been walking the same old road for miles and miles. If you've been hearing the same old voice tell the same old lies. If you're trying to fill the same old holes inside, there's a better life; there's a better life.

If you've got pain, He's a pain taker; if you feel lost, He's a way maker. If you need freedom or saving, He's a prison shaking Savior; if you've got chains, He's a chain breaker.

We've all searched for the light of day in the dead of night. We've all found ourselves worn out from the same old fight. We've all run to things we know just ain't right. There's a better life; there's a better life.

If you believe it, if you receive it. If you can feel it, somebody testify.

PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN

Words by Henry F. Lyte, 1834 / Music by John Goss, 1869

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to his feet your tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, his praise should sing? Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favor to our fathers in distress; praise him, still the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless. Alleluia, alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father like, he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows; in his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes. Alleluia, alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows.

Angels help us to adore him, you behold him face to face; sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Words by Reginald Heber, 1823 | Music by John Dykes, 1861

Holy, holy, holy! Lord, God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee. Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord, God Almighty! All thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

GOODNESS OF GOD

Words and Music by Jenn Johnson, 2018

I love You, Lord. Oh Your mercy never fails me; all my days I've been held in Your hands. From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head, Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

And all my life You have been faithful. And all my life You have been so, so good. With every breath that I am able Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

I love Your voice; You have led me through the fire. In darkest nights You are close like no other. I've known You as a Father; I've known You as a friend, and I have lived in the goodness of God.

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me (2x)
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now; I give you everything.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 84; Jer. 6:9-15; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Mark 5:1-20

MONDAY | Ps. 121; Jeremiah 7:1-15; Romans 4:1-12; John 7:14-36

TUESDAY | Ps. 25; Jeremiah 7:21-34; Romans 4:13-25; John 7:37-52

WEDNESDAY | Ps. 27; Jer. 8:4-9:6; Romans 5:1-11; John 8:12-20

THURSDAY | Ps. 102; Jer. 10:11-24; Romans 5:12-21; John 8:21-32

FRIDAY | Ps. 105; Jeremiah 11:1-17; Romans 6:1-11; John 8:33-47

SATURDAY | Ps. 31; Jeremiah 13:1-11; Romans 6:12-23; John 8:47-59

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Holy God, your law is perfect, reviving the soul; your decrees are sure, making wise the simple. Help us to follow your ways, that our hearts may rejoice, and keep your commandments, that our eyes may be enlightened. May we desire your word more than gold, and find all within it sweeter than honey. By your grace, may we be led by the Spirit, following the truth of the gospel and not the wisdom of this world; for we know that the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



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