



Faith & Laughter

Sarah

Hebrews 11:11

- Genesis 12



Lessons from Sarah

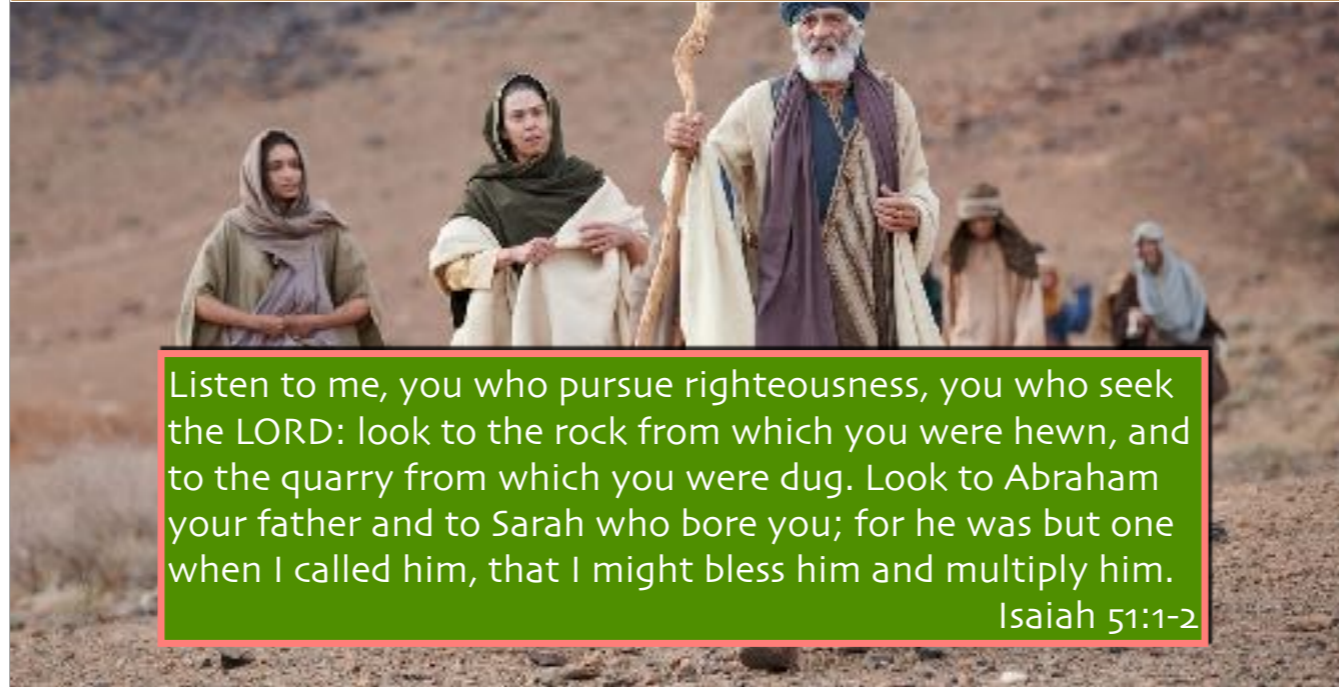
1. Children of the Promise — Hope in Jehovah
2. Pursuing Righteousness
3. Faith
4. Laughter

- 4 lessons
 - Children of Promise — Hope in Jehovah
 - Pursuing Righteousness
 - Faith
 - Laughter



- Our God is faithful to keep his promises.
- Waiting is very difficult.
- Keep hoping in Jehovah.
 - Keep asking questions.

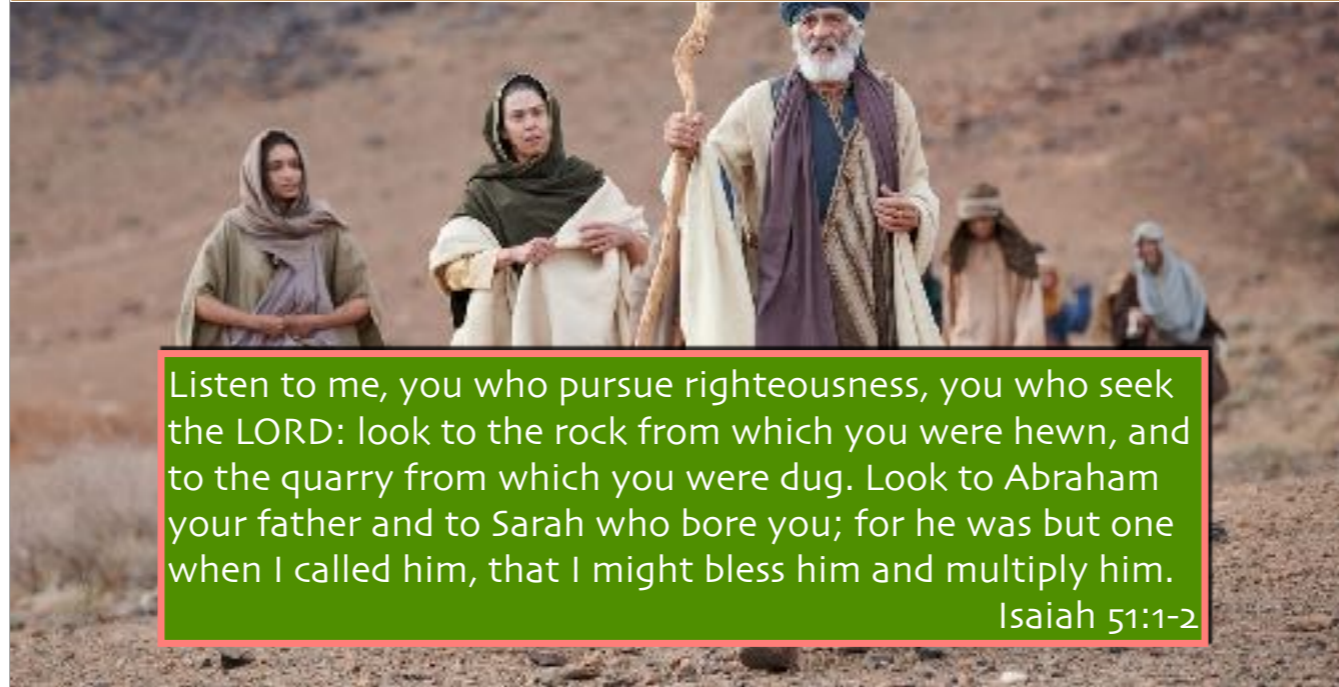
Pursuing Righteousness



Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him.
Isaiah 51:1-2

- Pursing Righteousness
- Isaiah 51:1-2 (ESV) 1 “Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. 2 Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him.

Pursuing Righteousness



- Jehovah's plea
 - 4) give attention to me; give ear to me (really listen to what God says; trust)
 - 7) know righteousness; in whose heart is my law
 - fear not reproach, reviling of man
- Tend to consider righteousness as doing what is right.
 - Deeper: being right

Pursuing Righteousness



- Misleading about Relationship (Egypt and Abimelech: Genesis 12:11-20; 20:1-18)
 - Abimelech:
 - Genesis 20:5: Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? **And she herself said, 'He is my brother.'** In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this."

Pursuing Righteousness



Misleading about their
relationship, twice.

Genesis 12:11-20; 20:1-18

- 12 Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife. 13 And when God caused me to wander from my father's house, I said to her, 'This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, "He is my brother."'”
- The consequences for both the Egyptians and Abimelech were sever: Plague and Death

Pursuing Righteousness



- Mistreating Hagar: Genesis 16:5-6:

- 4 And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived.
- And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress.
- 5 And Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the LORD judge between you and me!”
- 6 But Abram said to Sarai, “Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please.”
- Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.

Pursuing Righteousness



- Genesis 21:9-10:

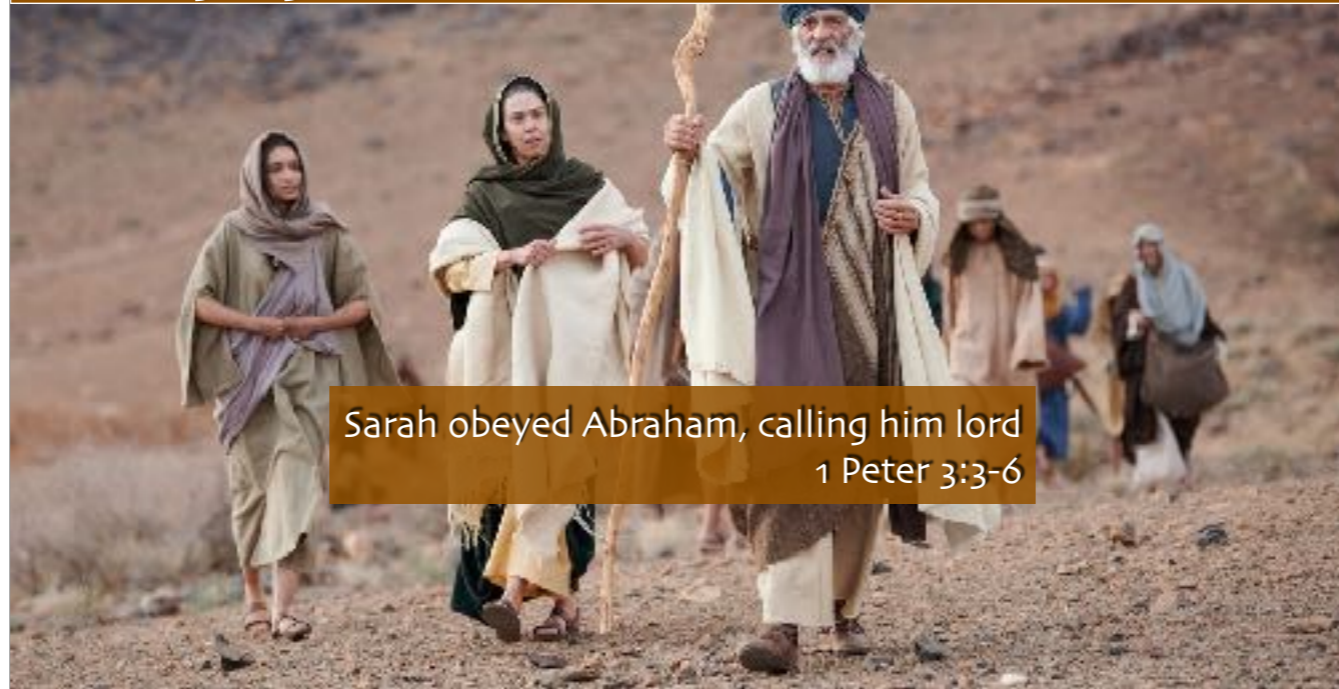
- But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, laughing.
- 10 So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac.”

Pursuing Righteousness



- But these were very trying and difficult circumstances.
 - And we shouldn't let them define our view of who Sarah is.
 - They are a part and shouldn't be passed over.
- More to her than this:
 - Moved with her husband
 - Dwelt in tents
 - Saw husband go into battle to save Lot
 - Sacrifice of Isaac, her son.

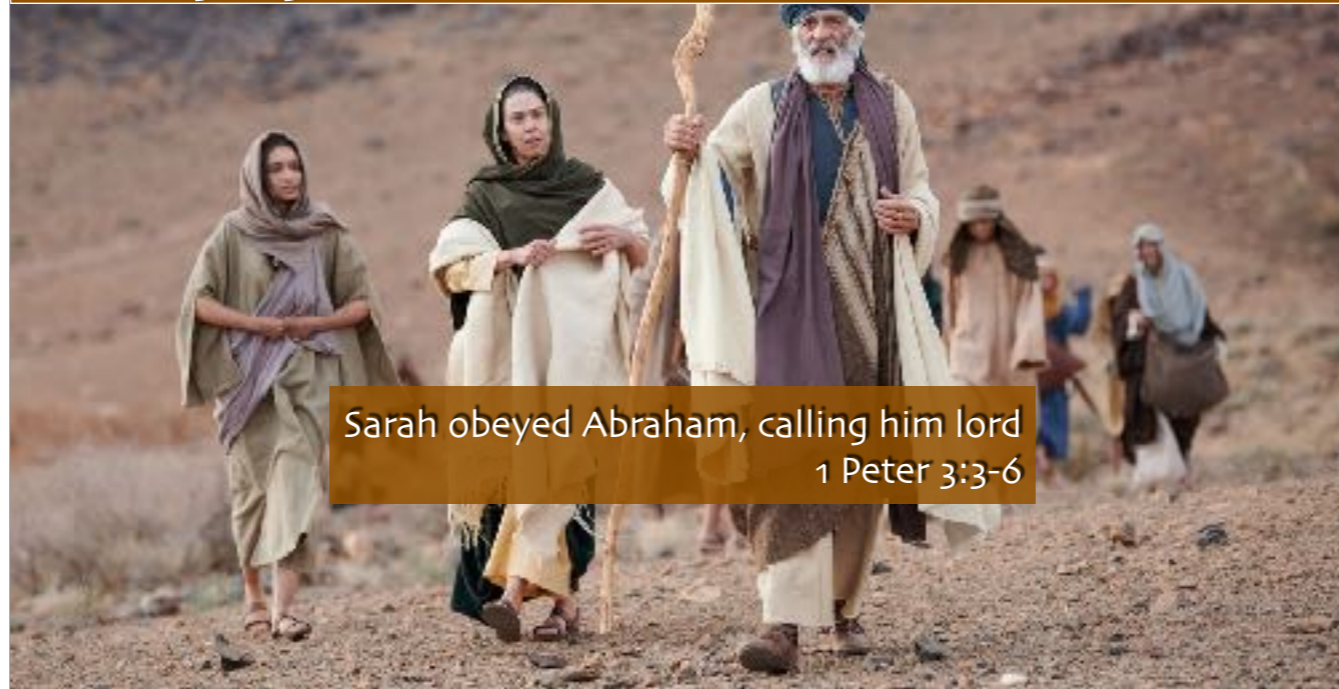
Pursuing Righteousness



Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord
1 Peter 3:3-6

- 1 Peter 3:3-6
 - Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—
 - 4 but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart
 - with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit,
 - which in God's sight is very precious.

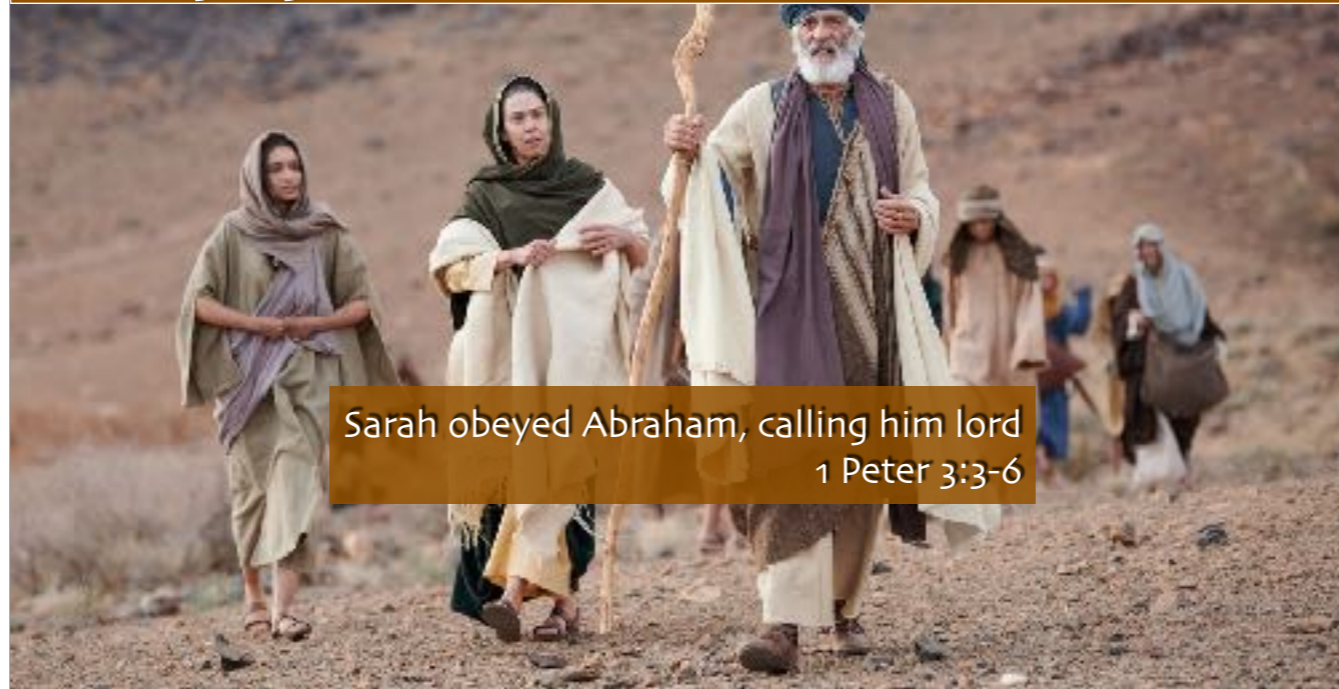
Pursuing Righteousness



Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord
1 Peter 3:3-6

- 5 For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands,
- 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord.
 - And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.
- The point to me is that Sarah is a good example to follow... we are given these reasons even if we struggle with discerning them in Genesis.
 - Submitting
 - Do Good
 - Do Not Fear

Pursuing Righteousness



- How is Sarai an example of pursuing righteousness? (Isaiah 51)
 - She reminds us that pursuing righteousness is not merely perfect obedience or majority obedience.
 - Seek Jehovah (1)
 - Give Attention to Jehovah (4)
 - In whose heart is my law (7)
 - My righteousness and My Salvation (5, 6, 8)

Faith

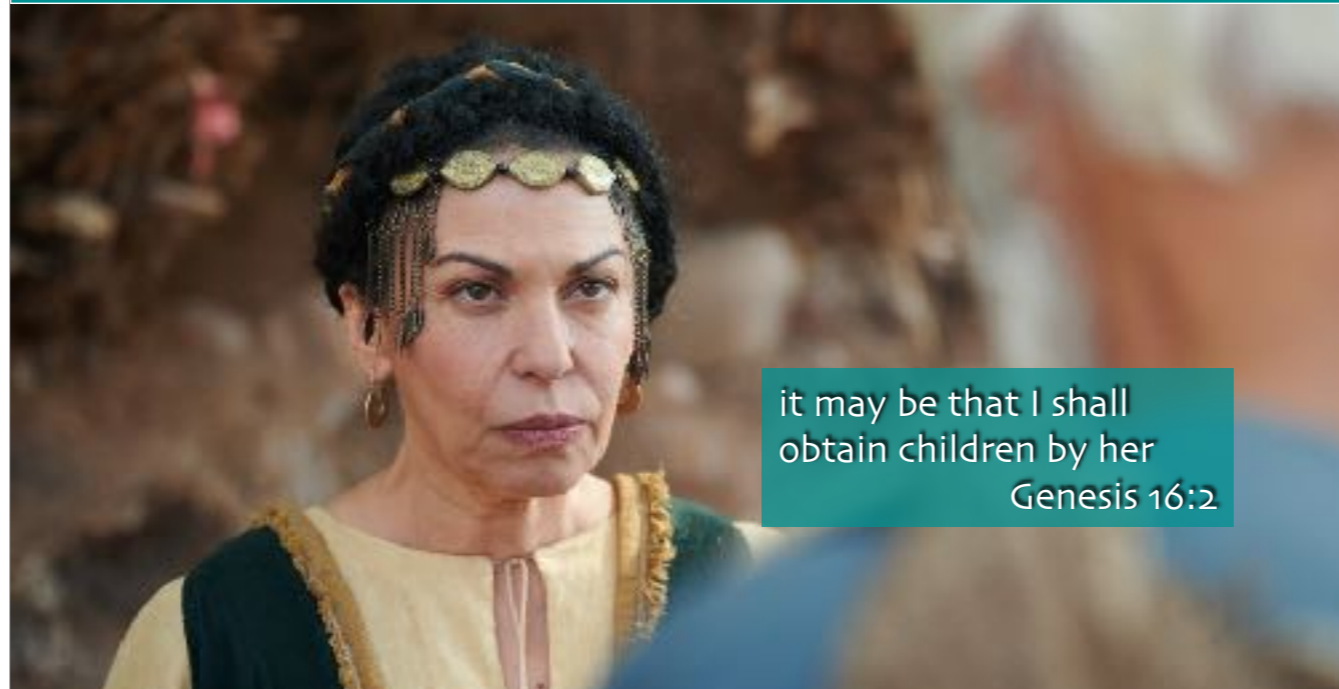
By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.

Hebrews 11:11



- Hebrews 11:11 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.

Faith



- Genesis 16:2 And Sarai said to Abram, “Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.
 - Later Abraham asks Jehovah to accept Ishmael as his heir (17:18)

Faith



- Genesis 17:15-19

- And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16 I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

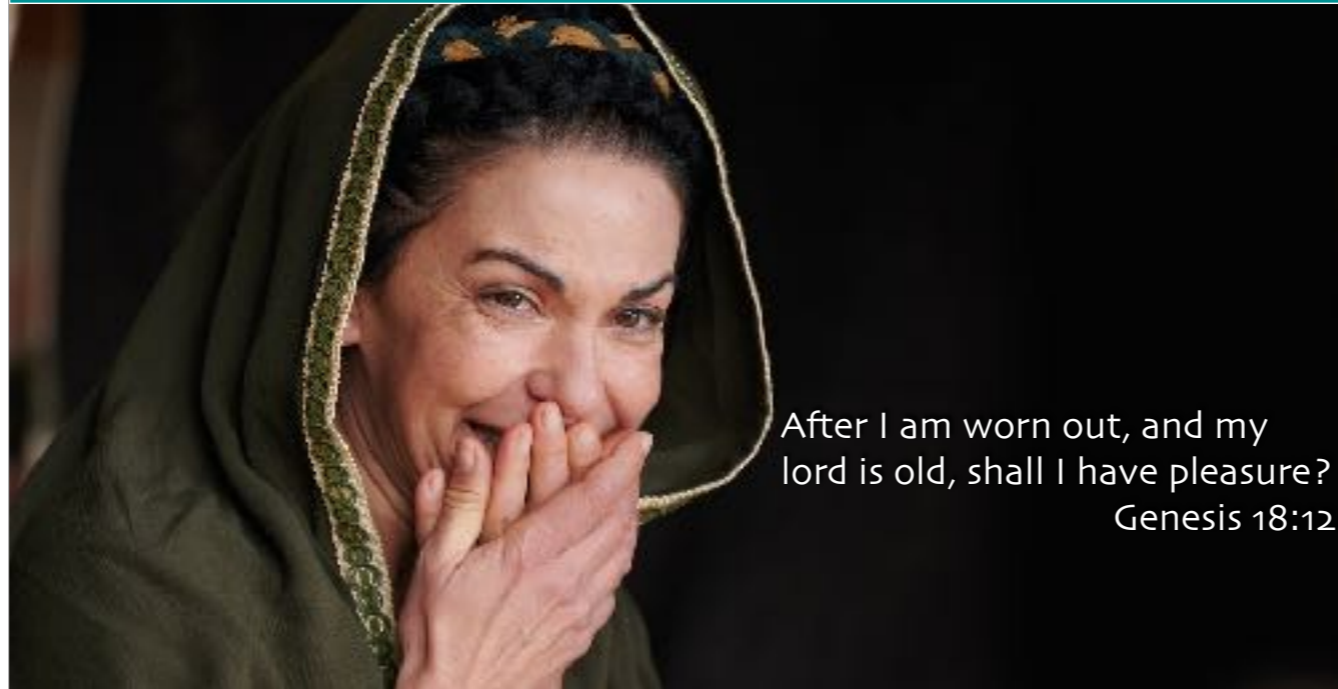
Faith



Shall Sarah, who is ninety
years old, bear a child?
Genesis 17:17

- 17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself,
 - “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old?
 - Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”
- 18 And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you!”
- 19 God said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac.

Faith

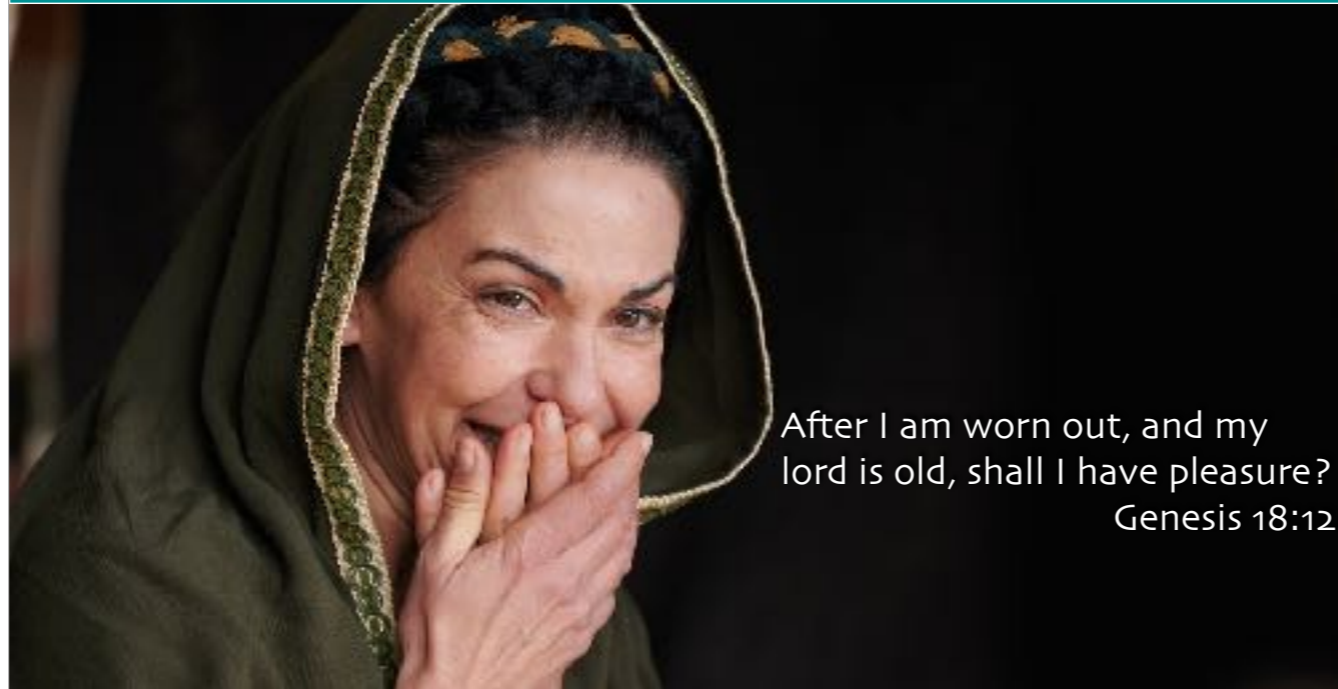


After I am worn out, and my
lord is old, shall I have pleasure?
Genesis 18:12

- Genesis 18:9-15

- They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in the tent.”
- 10 The LORD said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.
- 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years.
- The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah.

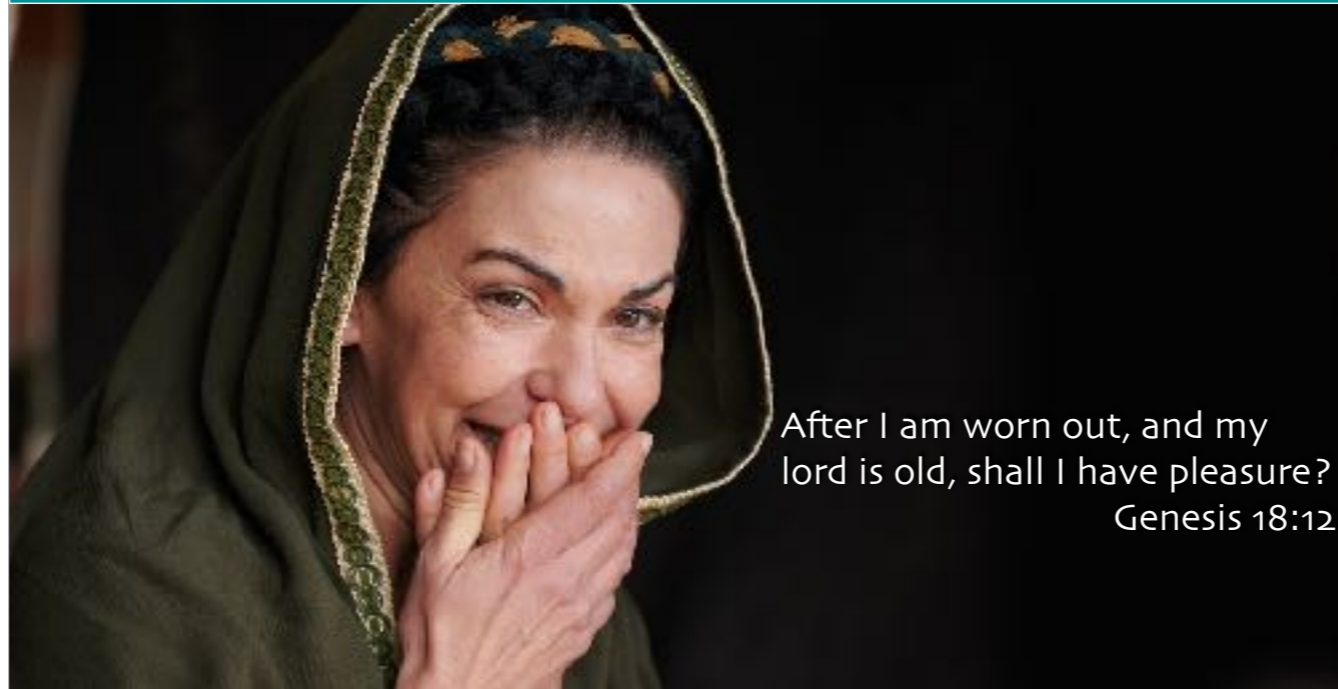
Faith



After I am worn out, and my
lord is old, shall I have pleasure?
Genesis 18:12

- 12 So Sarah laughed to herself, saying,
 - “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?”
 - Is this laugh doubt?
 - Is this laugh different from Abraham’s laugh?
 - Is this the laugh of one who is having a hard time seeing how it is possible, but hoping for it anyway?
 - “It would be great if that happened, but”

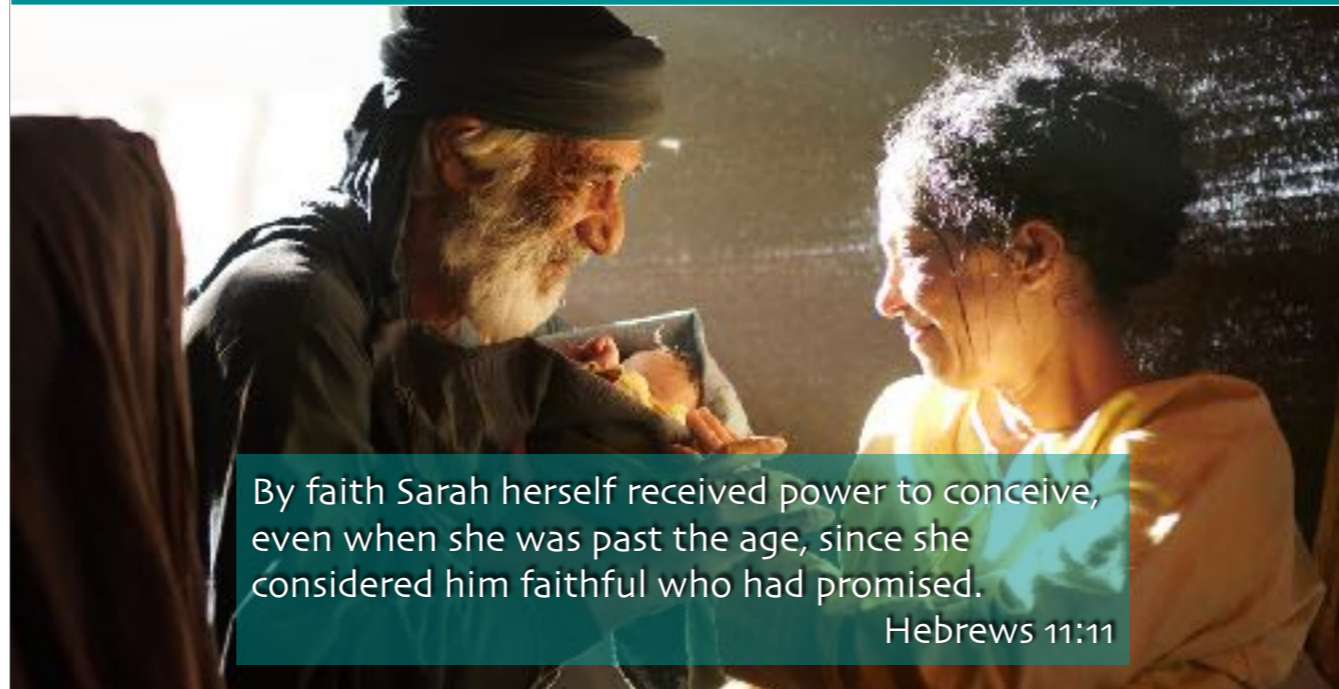
Faith



After I am worn out, and my
lord is old, shall I have pleasure?
Genesis 18:12

- 13 The LORD said to Abraham,
 - “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’
 - 14 Is anything too hard for the LORD?
 - At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”
 - 15 But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid.
 - He said, “No, but you did laugh.”

Faith



- Hebrews 11:11 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.
 - Received power to conceive (God was gracious, they didn't know his plan, and it had been a long time)
 - considered him faithful
 - Throughout these 25 years they may have tried to help Jehovah, but they kept coming to him asking that he approve.
 - They knew it was up to him, and they waited (ish).

Faith

it may be that I shall obtain children by her
Genesis 16:2

Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?
Genesis 17:17

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By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive,
even when she was past the age, since she
considered him faithful who had promised.
Hebrews 11:11

- Faith, in part, is how I think of God and his promises.
 - We struggle because we sometimes think faith is monolithic.
 - But repeatedly we are reminded that faith is often a journey of valleys and peaks and plains
 - We know this because of the example of Peter, who's faith seems so volatile: walking on water, then sinking.

Faith

it may be that I shall obtain children by her
Genesis 16:2

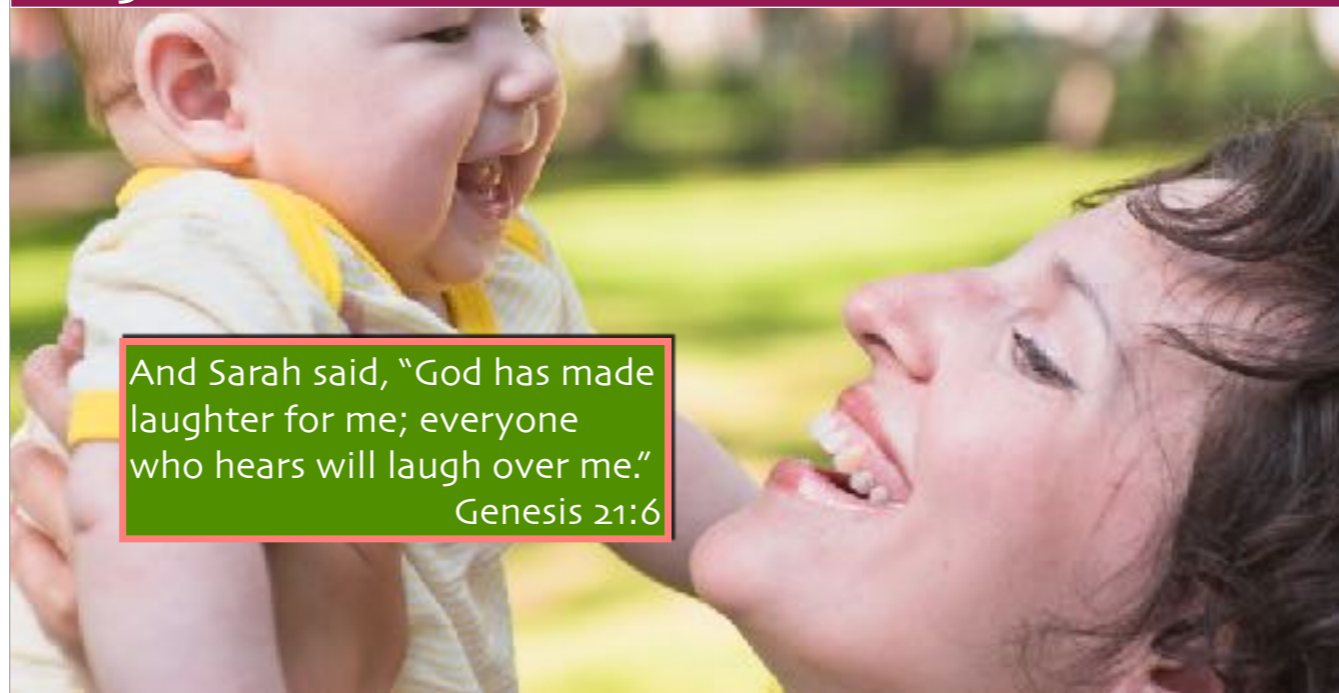
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Hebrews 11:11

- Practically, though, we consider that our own faith should not vary like that
 - We rebuke ourselves if it does.
 - We feel like failures if we falter at all.
 - I've failed, I've doubted, I've questioned my God.
- Sarah had faith.
 - Still tried to help God, and incorrectly.
 - But when he said in a year, she believed and she received strength to conceive

Laughter



- Genesis 21:6-7: 6 And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me." 7 And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

Laughter



So Sarah laughed to herself, saying,
“After I am worn out, and my lord
is old, shall I have pleasure?”

Genesis 18:12

- Genesis 18:12 So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?”
 - We are concerned what to think of this laughter.
 - Joy? Doubt?
 - Incredulous?
 - She lies about laughing because of fear.

Laughter



And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me."

Genesis 21:6

- Genesis 21:6-7: 6 And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me." 7 And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."
- As we've briefly looked at Sarah's life, it's pretty clear that it was not an easy life.
 - Leaving home and living in tents
 - Husband who is more concerned for his own safety than for hers
 - Mocking by servant
 - Almost all the interactions we've seen are negative, and she seems very mean.

Laughter



And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me."

Genesis 21:6

- No child for a long, long time (90 years, 25 years after promised)
 - This one thing was a deeply held struggle for her.
 - It dominated her thoughts and her life.
 - I infer: she could not have joy and laughter without a child

Laughter



And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me."

Genesis 21:6

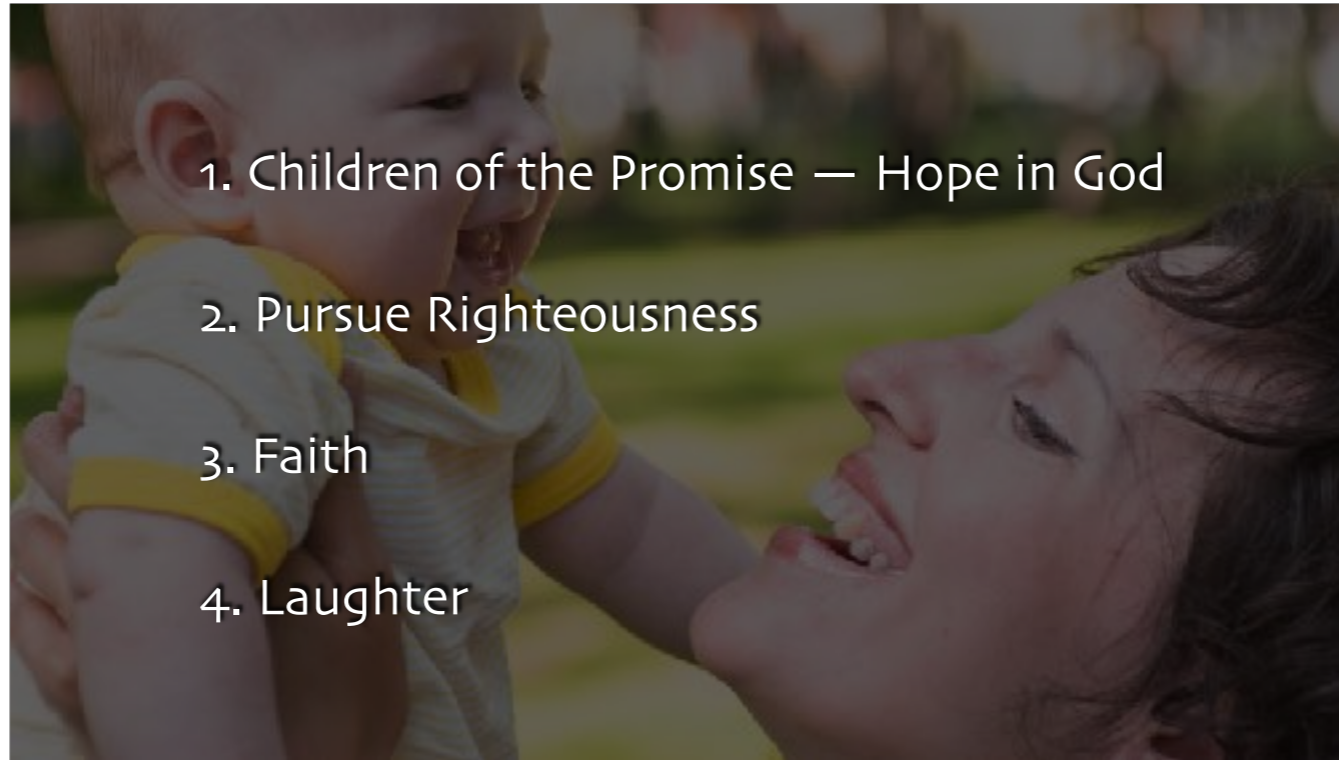
- And this is a place that is easy for many of us to fall into.
 - We won't be really happy until we get what is deeply desired in our hearts
 - And I'm not saying any of these things are sinful, or wrong desires.
 - Job, Career
 - House, Car
 - Spouse, Child
 - Fame
 - I am saying that there is a danger in being so focused on one thing that we miss out on the other joys in this life.
- I'm so glad for Sarah that she found that laughter and joy.

Laughter



Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, rejoice.
Philippians 4:4

- Finding Joy in the fulfillment of God's promises
 - Philippians 4:4-7 (ESV) 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



- Don't oversimplify the tension between faith, and righteousness, and hope
 - Waiting on God can be very difficult.
- Like Sarah we can find joy in our Lord.

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Call to Action

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God calls Abram to Canaan

Genesis 12:1-9



God confirms His covenant with Abraham

Genesis 17:1-21



The birth of Ishmael

Genesis 16:1-16



Isaac is born and Ishmael departs

Genesis 21:1-21



Abram and the three strangers

Genesis 18:1-15

THE COVENANT

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Faith & Laughter: Sarah (Part 2)

Hebrews 11:11

Synopsis: Four lessons we can learn from Sarah: The children of promise - hope in God; pursue righteousness; faith; and laughter. This lesson covers the final three.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”