

Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him.”

❖ God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_.

**GENESIS 21:5-7:** “Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. <sup>6</sup> Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.” <sup>7</sup> And she added, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

**ROMANS 4:18-21:** “Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” <sup>19</sup> Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. <sup>20</sup> Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.”

**HEBREWS 11:11-12:** “By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. <sup>12</sup> And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.”

**REASON #3: His \_\_\_\_\_ in the Past.**

❖ God’s Provision for \_\_\_\_\_.

❖ God’s Provision for \_\_\_\_\_.

**PSALM 22:1-5:** “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? <sup>2</sup>O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent. <sup>3</sup>Yet you are

enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel. <sup>4</sup>In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. <sup>5</sup>They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed.”

**REASON #4: His \_\_\_\_\_ in the Present.**

**GENESIS 18:10-15:** “Then the Lord said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.” Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. <sup>11</sup> Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. <sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?” <sup>13</sup> Then the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ <sup>14</sup> Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son.” <sup>15</sup> Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, “I did not laugh.” But he said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

**JEREMIAH 32:17:** “Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.”

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Are you having difficulty trusting God? If so, remember that you can trust God because...

❖ His *Promises* are Kept.

❖ His *Plan & Purpose* are Perfect.

❖ His *Provision* in the Past.

❖ His *Power* in the Present.

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Sunday February 8 from 6-8 pm** – Please join us at SMC for a Celebration service as we give thanks to God for the recent purchase of SMC's first building.

Consider joining us at SMC on Sunday February 22 for our **301 SEMINAR "Unwrapping Your SHAPE for Ministry"**. During this seminar you will learn about ministry at SMC and how to discover your best place to serve.

### PRAYER:

### QUESTIONS:

1). Sunday's message gave "4 Reasons to Trust God". Why is it that some do not trust God?

2). How would you encourage someone who does not trust God to begin to trust Him?

3). Take some time to encourage one another with your personal stories of trusting God in recent days. How has he proven faithful to you?

4). What are you facing in your life that seems to be 'impossible' and 'hopeless' to you? How does the story of Abraham and Sarah give you hope?

5). How can you tell the difference between a promise God gives to you and a promise God gave to Abram? How can you know the difference between a legitimate promise you can hold on to or claim and a promise that was not meant for you?

6). Take time to read Genesis 17:1-18:15. Does Abraham & Sarah's laughter (see 17:17; 18:12) indicate a lack of trust or a lack of faith? If so, how does this compare with what the New Testament says about Abraham's faith in Romans 4:18-21; Hebrews 11:11-12?

7). Take time to consider Abraham's life from Genesis 12-21. Does Abraham's life give evidence of a growing trust in God? If so, give some reasons to support your answer. How does this encourage you as a believer today?

### PRAYER:

## HEROES OF THE FAITH: *Lessons From the Lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & Joseph* **Today's Message: "4 Reasons to Trust God"**

Genesis 17-21

01.25.09 / SMC / Pastor Cory Anderson

### INTRODUCTION:

#### REASON # 1: His \_\_\_\_\_ *Are Kept.*

❖ God \_\_\_\_\_ Promises to Abram (Genesis 12:2-3, 7; 13:14-17; 15; 17:1-19; 18:1-15).

❖ God \_\_\_\_\_ his Promises to Abram & Sarai (Genesis 21:1-5; Hebrews 6:13-15).

**GENESIS 21:1:** "Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised."

**HEBREWS 6:13-15:** "When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, <sup>14</sup> saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants."<sup>15</sup> And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised."

#### REASON #2: His \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ *are Perfect.*

• God's \_\_\_\_\_ vs. Our \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 12:4; 16:3, 16; 17:1, 15-17; 18:10-15).

**GENESIS 21:1-4:** "Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised.<sup>2</sup> Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.<sup>3</sup> Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.<sup>4</sup> When his son