

February 19, 2023
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
GENESIS. Behind The Curtain: Abraham Part 2
Ep 4: Plan B
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Genesis 17:15-22

15 God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah.¹⁶ I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

¹⁷ Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"

¹⁹ Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.²⁰ And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation.²¹ But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year."²² When he had finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from him.

The best piece of advice that my mother gave me is to never have a plan B. She told me to stick to plan A because if you have a plan B you will inevitably fall back on it. - *Zoe Tapper*

1. **Develop a passion for seeking and discovering God's best.**
2. **Never settle for plan B.**

1. Develop a passion for seeking and discovering God's best.

- a. **Vs. 15** God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah.¹⁶ I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

2. Never settle for plan B.

1. **2,774 – "Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up." — Thomas A. Edison**

b. God's best is unconcerned with circumstance.

- i. **Vs. 17** Abraham fell facedown; he **laughed** and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"

1. This is the **second time** in this passage that Abraham fell face down before God, but this time he was laughing.

- a. **Gen 18:2** So Sarah **laughed** to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

2. Plan A required a new identity for both Abram and Sarai.

b. Abraham bargains for plan B.

- i. **Vs. 18** And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"

ii. God says "YES" to Abraham's Plan B, but not at the suffrage of God's Plan A

1. Then God said, "**Yes**, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

Small Group Questions:

1. God had a plan A for Abraham, but Abraham was not in touch with it. Are you in touch with God's plan A for your life?
2. God cares deeply about his plans for you and the plans of your heart but is unconcerned with your plan B's as they are never the desire of your heart. What plan B's do you need to put on the altar?
3. Plan A required a new identity for Abram and Sarai, God would rename them both. How might God need to breath into your identity to make you ready for plan A?
4. Abraham lets circumstance determine his faith. He laughed at God. What circumstance have you perhaps let steal your hope in God's future best for you?
5. What might the steps be to develop a passion for seeking God's Plan A for your life?