

the  Venues
Go Deep

No Snapchats With God
“Believe it or Not” - Genesis 17:1-27
March 29, 2015

If you could change our name, what would you choose?

What is the most serious contract you ever signed?

1. What’s in a name?

Names in the Bible were predictors of character.
Do you know the meaning of your name?
Does your name fit your character?

Genesis 17:1 is the first time God is called “El Shaddai.” Scholars aren’t sure what “Shaddai” means – “mountain” or “breast.”
What do those possible definitions say about the character of God?

Read Genesis 17:3-5, 15-17.

God did some name-changing.

Abram – “honored father” to Abraham – “father of many nations”

Sarai – “princess of a family” to Sarah – “princess of nations”

These new names were predictors of their promised reality.

Read Acts 11:26

Why do you think the believers were given this name?

What name would people give you based on how you live your life?

2. Here’s your sign.

Read Genesis 17:10-14

Why do you think God chose circumcision to ratify his covenant with Abraham?

Why would God choose a sign that would exclude women?

Why would God choose a sign that was “hidden?”

What happened to that requirement?

See Romans 2:25-29; Galatians 6:15;
Galatians 5:2-11

What is our equivalent to circumcision (symbol of our commitment to Christ)?

How will people know that we are followers of Jesus?

Bumper sticker on our car?

We tell people?

We live like Jesus?

As you read the story of Jesus, what characteristics and behaviors do you see that need to be emulated by us?

Take away:

God promised Abraham and Sarah something that seemed to them impossible.

What is the “impossibility” in your life right now?

We have the name of “Christian”.

Am I living up to the name of Christ?