Connect Group

Welcome
Opening Question: Have you ever had a nickname? OR What is the meaning of your name?

Worship

Word
Read Genesis 17 and answer the following questions.
1) How old is Abram when God speaks to him at the beginning of the chapter? How long has it been since his original call (Genesis 12:4), how long since the birth of Ismael (Genesis 16:16)?
2) God again re-affirms the covenant with Abram. What response does he ask of Abram (in the first 8 verses)?
3) What blessings are promised to Abram?
4) What change does God make to Abram's name? What is significant about his name change?
5) What physical act does God ask of Abram as a sign of the covenant?
6) Who must be circumcised?
7) What is Sarai's name change? What does God say about Sarai?
8) What is Abraham's response to hearing that Sarai will have a child?
9) What does Abraham's response tell you about his love for Ishmael? How do we see that God will still bless Ishmael?
10) What actions does Abraham take in response to God's commands?

Digging Deeper:
1) What promises does God reaffirm to Abram?
2) What promises or truths have you needed to have repeated in your spiritual development?
3) God tells Abram the expectations of being a part of the covenant. We have already discussed how this was an unconditional promise from God. How do these work together?
4) By means of analogy, my children are unconditionally part of my family. However, being part of my family carries certain privileges, expectations and even consequences (if warranted). How is Abram's relationship with God like this?
5) Why is obedience an important part of our relationship with God?
6) What is significant about God changing Abram & Sarai's name?
7) What is significant about the sing of the covenant (circumcision)?
8) How does the practice of circumcision relate to the believer today? READ 1 Corinthians 7:17-20 and Romans 4:9-12.
9) What else stands out to you from this passage?

Works
Pray for one another and your lost friends.