

GENESIS 18:1-15

31 JANUARY 2021

ICE BREAKER: Name one person you know, who almost always has a positive attitude.

GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read verses 1-8) Being a Christian is not simply being religious about God, but becoming a **friend of God**. **Abraham** is the only person in the Old Testament given the title—'Friend of God' (2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23). What does it look like to be a friend of God?

Consider the LORD's visit to Abraham. The visit was **unexpected** and at the **worst time**, in 'the **heat** of the day' when most were resting from the blazing middle eastern heat. Abraham, himself, is **99 years old** (Genesis 17:24). He is wealthy and can delegate the serving to any of his over 300 younger, male servants (14:14).

Notice, Abraham is described three times as **hurrying to serve the Lord**. At one point, 'he **ran** to the herd and selected **a choice**, tender **calf**'. Picture a 99 year old man running to **pick out the best** to please his guest?

1. What **impresses** you most about **Abraham** as he **relates** to the **LORD**?

(Read verse 6) To serve the unexpected guests, Abraham hurried to **Sarah** and **commanded her**, 'Quick...bake some bread'. Sarah **immediately obeyed**, no hesitation, no complaint. But remember, Sarah was 'already old and well advanced in years', being **89 years old**. She had hundreds of servants she could have summoned to do this task for her.

Notice also, Abraham did not repeat himself to Sarah nor stay to watch over her to make sure she got it done. The food was simply ready when Abraham needed to serve it.

2. What impresses you most about **Sarah's obedience** or **quickness** to respond to Abraham?

(Read verse 7 & Genesis 19:12-14) Abraham's friendship with the LORD not only blessed his marriage, but also blessed his **relationships** with those **under his influence**. In serving the LORD, Abraham commanded his servant to prepare a calf for the meal. What was the servant's response? The servant '**hurried** to prepare it.'

Contrast this response to that of the sons-in-law of Lot, Abraham's wayward nephew in Sodom. Despite Lot's personal command and plea for them to flee the destruction to come upon their town, the sons-in-law simply ignored him.

3. How does the **health** of your **relationship** with the **LORD** effect the health of your relationship with **others**?

(Read John 15:9-15) Through faith in Jesus Christ we can enter into that rare relationship Abraham had as a **friend of God**. Jesus declared, "You are **my friends** if you **do what I command**. I no longer call you servants...Instead I have called you friends." Before proclaiming these words, Jesus demonstrated what he meant by friendship. At the Upper Room, "He poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him." (John 13:5)

To be a friend of God is to **love Him**. And to love God is to **obey Him** and **serve others**.

4. What happens when you see someone **say** he **loves God**, but see he is **hesitant** to **serve** or **obey others**?

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to share Christ with this week.)
