

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Genesis 17:1-14
Sunday, September 10, 2017
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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Why do you think God waited until Abram was ninety-nine years old before speaking to him again?

God wanted both Abram and Sarai to be physically unable to have children in their old age so He could prove He was almighty and able to make them miraculously conceive a son, Isaac, the son He promised to give them both. Perhaps God wanted to wait thirteen years after the birth of Ishmael and show His gracious discipline.

2. How did God describe Himself and what was the very first thing God commanded Abram to do?

“I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless” (Genesis 17:1).

3. What was Abram’s response when God spoke to him?

Abram fell facedown and said nothing.

4. What is one difference between God’s covenant with Noah and His covenant with Abraham?

The covenant with Noah was unconditional. No matter what people may or may not do, God will never destroy all people again with a flood. God made the sign of the covenant

with the rainbow. The covenant with Abram was conditional. Abram and his descendants were to practice circumcision. Abram and his descendants were to make the sign of the covenant with the circumcision of Abram and his descendants.

5. In His covenant, what two blessings did God promise Abraham and His descendants?

The Promised Land and a multitude of descendants, kings, and nations.

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