

# The Essentials: The Book of Genesis

## Session 4

### Opening Collect

*Together:* Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Watch Video

**Read: Genesis 17:1-11 (out loud)**

### Discussion:

1. Did you hear anything new from Margery's video? If so, what?
2. In the previous session, the "mark" of the covenant on the side of Abraham was simply belief. What do you think it means that God no wants a particular response from Abraham to continue the covenant?
3. Margery mentions the way sexual sin is an ongoing struggle within the family of Abraham. Why do you think God seems to care so much about this very intimate human act?
4. Why do you think Abraham and Sara receive new names? Where else in the Bible do you see people receive new names? Why?
5. Obviously circumcision functioning as a sign of the covenant takes real intentionality! On the other hand, to *be* circumcised as an infant (what was required within the law) takes no intentionality on the part of the child. What could that mean about being brought into the covenant?
6. Margery mentioned the way the New Testament correlate of circumcision is baptism. Have you ever thought about that before? How does that make you think about your own baptism and your life in Christ?
7. At the end of the Pentateuch (the first 5 books of the Bible), Deuteronomy speaks about circumcision of your heart (Deuteronomy 10:16). What do you think that means? What might it mean for *your* heart to be circumcised?

### Check in and closing prayers

## Genesis 17:1-11

[1] When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, [2] that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” [3] Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, [4] “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. [5] No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. [6] I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. [7] And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. [8] And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

[9] And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. [10] This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. [11] You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. (ESV)