

- Is it worth trusting God? Is it worth the wait?

### 1. **Don't let your circumstances overshadow God**

- Key statement – Gen 11:30 – “Sarai was barren; she had no children”
- She lets culture, the opinions of others & her circumstances dictate her life
- 4 consequences:
  - a) **We get sucked into a downward spiral**
  - b) **We seek our own solutions, leaving God out – Gen 16:2**
  - c) **We end up in more hurt and misery – Gen 16:4,5**
  - d) **We become cynical and disbelieving – Gen 18:12**
    - So focused on circumstances that we make God impotent
    - So focused that we feel exempt from God's promises
- We can't change our circumstances but we can change where we look at – God or them?

### 2. **Let God overshadow your circumstances**

- Amazing grace – instead of withdrawing promise God restates it (17:16)
- Doesn't get what she deserves – should make us rethink
  - a) **Listen to what God says about himself – Gen 18:14**
    - God gives Sarah a big view of what he can do
  - b) **Listen to when God uncovers your sin – Gen 18:15**
    - Don't shift the blame. Take responsibility
  - c) **Turn from disbelief to belief**
    - Sarah repents, and acts in faith on God's promise - Gen 21:1
    - Root out doubts, and rub in truth into everyday life
- These three steps are the upward spiral that causes growth

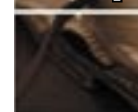
### 3. **God is a God who turns cynicism into joy**

- Gen 18-20 are a backdrop against which the amazing grace of God (ch 21) is displayed.
- Gen 21:6 – Sarah laughs again, this time in joy and delight
- She finds that God is a God who is worth trusting
- God had promised laughter (Isaac = laughter) with the birth of this miracle child
- God often takes what we think is impossible, and brings joy through it
- A childless woman has a child - a pointer from God.
- It is through the ultimate miracle child, Jesus, that God brings deepest happiness and restoration to broken humanity
- We need what Jesus did in order to find lasting happiness
- We can look at Christ, the same way Sarah would look at Isaac and say – I know God is worth trusting.

## Notices

- Sab 8<sup>th</sup> Evening service at Mark & Judith's - Psalm singing & learning new tunes 8pm
- Wed AGM & Beetle drive! 8pm
- Thur 26<sup>th</sup> Milford congregation are invited to the commissioning service of Robert Robb as Pastor of Enniskillen fellowship. Let Mark know by 8th Feb if you are going Enniskillen Agricultural College at 7.45pm
- Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Leaflet distribution in Enniskillen - invites to services starting 1st March Starting around mid-morning. Contact Rev Robert Robb if you wish to help. Tel: 048 7772 2136 mob: 0044 751 802 0228 email: revrobbbrp@hotmail.com
- Thu 12<sup>th</sup> Banner of Truth Conference for young people - The Book that Changed the World - Can we Trust the Bible? The Crescent Church, University Road, Belfast. Ted Donnelly & Mark Johnston
- 21<sup>st</sup> March Go-relief team meeting - Cloughmills RP Church @ 3.00pm
- Pastoral Congregational Visiting has started - Theme will be 'Treasures that last' - Matt 6:19-24

## Christianity Explored



A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, or to refresh your memory, and to find answers to your questions about Jesus, the Bible or Christianity.

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible
- You won't be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you're interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

Sabbath 15th - Jochebed (Exodus 1,2; Hebrews 11:23;-27)

Opening Psalm: 81:5-8

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