

Further Study – April 25, 2021

Read: Hebrews 11:8-16 and Genesis 17:15-18:15

If you heard the sermon this week, was there any part of the message or scripture passage that was particularly important or meaningful to you? If so, what?

Understanding Questions:

- What acts of faith does the writer of Hebrews assign to Abraham? What does Hebrews have to say about why these acts are so profound?
- What does God promise Abraham and Sarah? What was Abraham's reaction to this? How old were they when they received this promise?
- What happened at the oaks of Mamre? Who visited Abraham and Sarah? How were they received and what did they have to say? What did God have to say to Sarah about her reaction to the news?

Application Questions:

- What does it mean to you that God makes incredible promises to an outsider like Ishmael?
- Why do you think both Abraham and Sarah laughed in response to God's promises? Do relate to this reaction – do God's promises to you ever feel too preposterous and too wonderful to be true? What does this say about our expectations for God?
- The writer of Hebrews praises Abraham and Sarah for leaving everything they ever knew behind – their country, their family, their safety – and setting out for a new place simply because God told them to. How do you think they were able to trust God so deeply? What must they have believed about God's character? What is God asking you to trust today and tomorrow?