



## Abraham: A New Name For A New Season - Week 1 DISCUSSION GUIDE

### OVERVIEW

In this first message of our new series, **REnamed**, we will look in Scripture at powerful encounters when God renames people. He gives them a fresh start and a new purpose. God takes their brokenness and turns it into beauty. God is the God of new beginnings, fresh starts, and reawakened purpose.

**Isaiah 62:2-3: “...You shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord will name. You shall also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.”**

### DISCUSSION

Before we were born, God had a purpose and future designed uniquely for us. **Ephesians 2:10: “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.”** We are God’s masterpiece. When we come to Christ, we are forgiven and experience a fresh start. Our hearts are changed, but our heads still think wrong thoughts. We still have wrong names in our minds that need to change. We need to break agreement with the words people have spoken or that we speak over ourselves.

- What names/identities have been attached to you throughout your life? How do you see yourself? Do they agree with what God says about you? Do they agree with your purpose and your future?

In the Book of Genesis, God renamed one of the most well-known figures in Scripture.

### Three Keys to Living Out Your identity in Christ

1. **Remember God’s plan prevails.** God says to Abram before his name change: **“Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”** (Genesis 12:1-3) God had a plan for Abram, and He has a plan for you. God is the Watchmaker, the Creator. We are the watches, the created beings. He is all-powerful, and He has a wonderful and unique plan for each of us. He’s the Master Planner.
  - Abram was told by God he would be the father of many nations before his name changed or even had a son. What do you believe God is calling you right now before it manifests? How does God see you differently than you even see yourself?

2. **Recognize God's power initiates.** God reaffirms His promise to Abram in Genesis 17:1-2: **“When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.’”** The Hebrew word for Almighty God is *El Shaddai*. That means He is 100% sufficient. He's more than enough even when we don't feel like we are enough. God challenges Abram to walk with Him holy and blameless, and then He establishes **covenant** relationship with Abram. Covenant means God initiates relationship. He makes the first move.

- How is covenant different from a contract?

In Genesis 17:5-6, God changes Abram's name: **“No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.”** At this point in time, Abram and Sarah didn't have one child, but in Romans 4:17 we learn that Abram called those things that did not exist as though they did.

- What happens in us when we begin to call ourselves what God calls us?

3. **Respond with humility and faith.** Abraham modeled how to respond to the amazing gifts God offers us. Genesis 17:3 says, **“Then Abram fell on his face...”** In response to God's extension of relationship and covenant, Abraham humbled himself. As Abraham fell on his face, God declared his new name. God tells Abraham that He will bring forth God's children, which will bless all the nations. God makes him fruitful. Abraham responded with humility and faith. God is the initiator; we are the responders. We take the low posture as God favors us and lifts us up.

- Why is a response of humility and faith the best response? What does it say about God? What does it say about us?

## LIFE CHALLENGE

It's important to keep calling ourselves what God says about us. We may not feel different overnight. Abraham waited years for his promised child to come forth, but every time we call ourselves what God named us, it gets deeper on the inside. It's changing our self-image and reprogramming our thinking. Below are declarations to speak out loud each day.

### Power and Purpose Declarations:

**I am created for purpose. Ephesians 2:10**  
**I am whole and healed. Isaiah 53:5**  
**I am provided for. 2 Peter 1:2**  
**I am competent. Philippians 4:13**  
**I am chosen and valuable. Ephesians 2:19**  
**I am loved and lovable. 1 John 3:1**  
**I am celebrated by God. Zephaniah 3:17**