

STUDY GUIDE

GENESIS: Week 10 7.27.14

[set up]

The Preaching Team at CVC has taught through almost half of the book of Genesis. What are some of the most impactful things you have learned that has helped you become a Beloved Child, Investor, Disciple, Servant, Self-Feeder, or Missionary? What are some of the most difficult parts of the book of Genesis for you?

[digging deeper]

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Digging deeper

Read Genesis 21:1-21.

In this passage we see the partial fulfillment of the covenant made by God to Abraham in Genesis 12 and 15. The Son of Promise, Isaac, is born to Abraham, but not all is well in the tents of Abraham.

What do you think about Sarah's reaction to Ishmael and Hagar in Genesis 16 and 21? What motivated Sarah to react in the way she did.

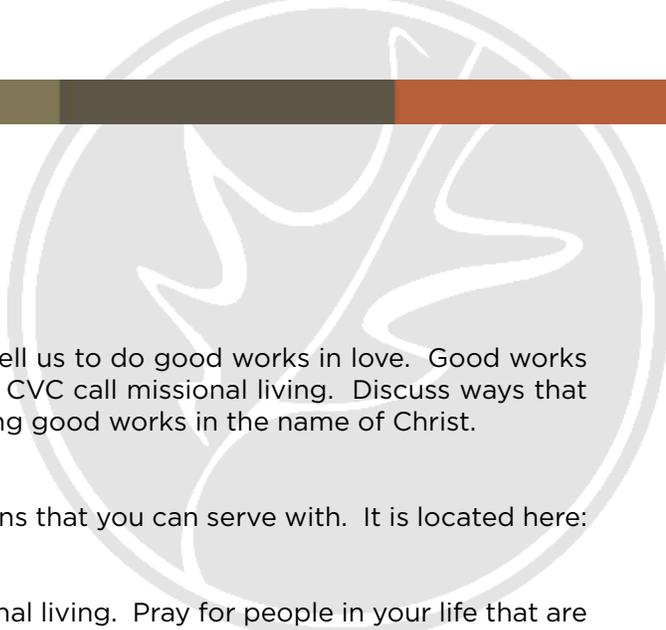
Chad talked about being under God's plan and promises, and things begin to go poorly for whoever steps outside of that plan and those promises. What areas of your life do you feel are easiest to step outside of the "umbrella" of God's plan and promises? What emotions or feelings lead you away from God's plan and promises the most? How does reminding ourselves that you are a beloved child help resist harmful emotions and impulses?

In Galatians 4, Paul uses Sarah, Hagar, Isaac, and Ishmael as an analogy of the covenant of the Law and the covenant of grace. The Law is good because it points out our faults and need for God, but the Law can never bring us to salvation.¹ The covenant of grace promises us salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Paul says that the covenant of grace gives us freedom from the law and from sin. The purpose of this freedom is to do good works in love.

Each one of us has a tendency to either 1) try really hard to do the right thing in order to deserve our salvation, or 2) neglect doing good works because we are lazy in our salvation. What is your tendency: work to deserve your salvation or neglect good works because you are already saved? What are ways to remind ourselves that we are called and saved in order to do good works?

Read Galatians 5:1, 13-14. In what ways are you still not free in Christ? What can be done about that in your own life?

¹ See Romans 7.



[living it out]

Ephesians 2:10, Galatians 5:13, and many, many other passages tell us to do good works in love. Good works should be the natural result of our salvation. This is what we at CVC call missional living. Discuss ways that you as individuals and as a Lifegroup can live missionally by doing good works in the name of Christ.

CVC has a Missional Living Guide that lists dozens of organizations that you can serve with. It is located here: <http://www.cvconline.org/serve/local-regional/>

Spend some time praying together for a greater heart for missional living. Pray for people in your life that are standing outside God's plans and promises for their lives.

If time allows, read Psalm 103:6-13 and thank God that he forgives and loves even when we go against his revealed plan.