



THE CHURCH OF THE
RESURRECTION

REZGROUP GUIDE WEEK OF OCTOBER 2, 2022

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Fall Rez Foundations — Wednesdays, at 7:45 pm
2. Women's Bible Study Fellowship — Thursdays 10 am at Rez
3. Donation Drive for Central Union Mission — Starting Sunday, October 2 through October 30
4. Science and Religion - Conflict or Companionship? — Saturday, October 8, 7:30 pm at Rez
5. Parent Information Session, hosted by Capitol Hill Christian Academy at Rez — Tuesday, October 18, 7:30-8:30 pm

SCRIPTURE - Genesis 17

God appeared to Abram in Ur of the Chaldeans when he was 75 years old (Gen. 12:4) and then again when he was around 86 six years (Gen. 15). God promised to make Abram a great nation, but Abram remained childless. So he and Sarai took matters into their own hands; Abram had a son, Ishmael, by Hagar, Sarai's Egyptian slave (Gen. 16). Perhaps Abram thought that Ishmael was the promised heir, but in this chapter, God appears to Abram again, 13 years later to re-establish the covenant.

Chapter Outline

1. Summary of Covenant (vs. 1-2)
2. God's Covenant Responsibility (vs. 3-8)
 - a. Abram's name changed to Abraham to mark a new promise: he will be fruitful and birth kings
 - b. The Covenant is an everlasting covenant between God, Abraham, and his descendants.
 - c. Abraham's descendants will inherit the whole land of Canaan as an everlasting possession.
3. Abraham's Covenant Responsibility: Circumcision (vs. 9-14)
4. Sarah, the Mother of Nations (vs. 15-21)
5. Abraham's Obedience (vs. 22-27)

Discussion Questions

1. When God appears to Abraham, he introduces himself with a new name, changes Abram's name to Abraham, and Sarai's name to Sarah. Why is this important?
2. Previously, God did not require anything of Abraham as part of the covenant. It was unconditional (cf. Gen. 15). Now, God tells Abraham, "Walk before me and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." How do we reconcile the unconditionality of the covenant with Abraham's responsibility? Does God expect any more or less from Christians today?
3. What does circumcision signify for Abraham, his household, and his descendants? How does this apply to us?
4. How does circumcision apply to the Christian?
5. What are some practical ways to apply this passage?

PRAYER

Officiant Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

People **The maker of heaven and earth.**

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Confession of Sin

The Officiant says to the people

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept. Officiant and People together, all kneeling

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you**

in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Officiant says

May Almighty God grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Intercessions and thanksgivings follow. Please include the following in your prayer:

Missionary: Matt and Katie Riley in Pontivy, France

Persecuted Church and her Persecutors: [Kazakhstan](#)

- *Pray the Lord to provide for those who've been fined for Christian activities, including selling Christian material.*
- *Pray that the faith of our brothers and sisters facing persecution will not be shaken, but will remain strong.*
- *Pray the Kazakh authorities will recognize the good intentions of Christians, and give them more freedom to express their faith.*

Global Concern: Hurricane Ian

Conflict ridden areas: Ukraine/Russia, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Myanmar, etc.

Church Ministry: Singles in our church, Sunday Service volunteers (musicians, AV, greeters/ushers, hospitality volunteers)

A Prayer of St. John Chrysostom

Officiant and People

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time, with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will grant their requests: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord!

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Officiant may then conclude:

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Romans 15:13*