

**INTRO**

- Think of a time you waited a long time for something that mattered to you. What did that waiting do to you, to your trust, hope, and sense of God?

**READ**

Genesis 17:1-16

**REFLECT & RESPOND**

Abram waited twenty-four years. Genesis 17 opens in that silence. And yet God returns — not with rebuke, but with a renewal of the covenant. In this passage, we trace two movements: the heart of covenant life (God's commitment to us), and the shape of covenant life (how that commitment forms us). God gives Himself, forms a people, and calls Abraham to walk before Him wholeheartedly and with a new identity.

**Relationship: Walk Before Me**

"Walk before me" is relational language, a life lived consciously in God's presence.

*Q: Where have you compartmentalized your faith to certain parts of your week or life?*

**Belonging: Initiation Into Community**

The covenant sign of circumcision marked belonging to God, participation in His promise, and membership in His people. Similarly, baptism marks belonging to Christ and His people. It is public, embodied, and communal.

*Q: in what ways are you tempted to keep your faith private? What would it look like to more publicly identify with Christ and His people?*

**Identity: Receive a New Name**

God renamed Abram and Sarai before the promise was fulfilled, speaking future reality into the present.

*Q: What names have others given you that you've been living under? What voice has the greatest influence on how I see myself?*

**Wholehearted Response: Tamim**

"Be blameless" (Heb: *Tamim*) is not being sinless. It means whole, undivided. It is Jesus asking Peter three times, 'do you love me?'

*Q: Where am I hesitating to fully trust God and live accordingly? What would it look like to take one step of full trust this week?*

**Christ-centred Reflection**

The Christian life begins where Genesis 17 begins: not with our commitment to God, but with God's commitment to us. In Christ, we receive a new identity, a new family, and the presence of God through the Spirit.

*Q: How does knowing that God's commitment to you came before your commitment to Him change how you approach your relationship and obedience this week?*

Take a moment individually: write down one area of your life where you need to receive your identity from God rather than build or protect it yourself.

**PRAY**

- Thank God for the gift of His commitment to us before we could offer anything in return.
- Confess where you've been divided, or where you've been managing your life and future rather than trusting God fully.
- Ask the Spirit to make real the identity God has already spoken over you in Christ.