



CONNECTION QUESTION

What is the first thing you will do outside when the temperature gets above 70?

BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE

> Read Genesis 21:1-7; Hebrews 11:8-16.

Abraham and Sarah waited 25 years for God to fulfill his promise. How good are you at waiting? How would you have acted while waiting? What would your response have been when God answered his promise?

The Bible makes it clear that God keeps his promises, but he is not in a hurry to do so. What helped Abraham and Sarah while they waited? What can we learn from the example of Abraham?

> **Universal vs. Personal Promises.**

The Bible is filled with promises, but not every promise applies to us today. The promises of the Bible must be read in the context. Read each of the following passages. What is being promised? Who is the recipient of the promise? Are they universal or personal promises?

Genesis 15:5

John 3:36

Matthew 11:28-29

2 Samuel 7:16

Exodus 3:17

John 5:24

Matthew 28:20

John 14:16-26

Matthew 19:29

Matthew 10:40-42



What are some principles that we can use to discern whether a promise applies to us today?

Using those principles (and the questions used previously), explain why the following promises are personal (for the people of Israel) and *do not* apply to us today:

2 Chronicles 7:14

Jeremiah 29:11

**Note: you may need to read the context (2 Chronicles 7 & Jeremiah 29:1-23) in its entirety.*

How should we respond when we hear people mistakenly apply these passages (and others) to themselves or the United States today? What is a better way to encourage people to prayer and humility (2 Chron. 7) and to trust God's plan (Jer. 29)?

TAKE IT HOME

> Read Romans 4:13-25; Ephesians 1:11-14.

What promise is in view here? How do we participate in this promise?

What role does the Holy Spirit play in assuring us of the promise?

How do the promises of God change the way we live? Share one way you can live differently this week based off the promises of God.