

# NewSpring Church Groups Study Guide

Beautiful — Week 6 — Sarah Laughed . . .there is hope.

Is anything too hard for the Lord? Do we really believe He can do what He says He can do? In Genesis 15:5, God tells Abraham to “Look up at the heavens and count the stars- if indeed you can count them...so will your offspring be.” Abraham and Sarah had doubts because they were old and past the age of childbearing. Is it possible that our hope is fixed on what we can do and not on what God can do? What if we stopped laughing at God and started believing him?

- Read Genesis 18:12-14. “Is there anything too hard for the Lord?” Are there things you don’t ask God for because they seem impossible? Are there things you don’t talk to God about because they seem unimportant or silly?
- In Genesis 16:2, Sarah says to Abraham, “The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her.” Have you ever felt like God has failed you and it was time to take matters into your own hands? Why did you doubt?
- How does faith in God grow? (Romans 10:17)
- What miracles have you seen God perform in your life?
- “...the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant” (Genesis 21:1-2). Have you ever been surprised by how God answered your prayers?

Despite laughing in His face, God used Sarah in an incredible way. It seems that when hope is gone, we can be hopeful. When our faith is dashed, He is faithful. His strength is made perfect in our weakness. God wants to do something amazing in us and through us. There is nothing too hard for the Lord!

## MONDAY

Proverbs 13:12 says, “Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.” Are there people that you know that have a need you can fulfill?

## TUESDAY

Isaiah 40:31 says, “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Are you tired? Do you know what it means to find hope and rest in the Lord?

## **WEDNESDAY**

Romans 4:18 says, "Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.'" Do you have a friend or relative that you have given up on? Do you believe that there is anything too hard for the Lord?

## **THURSDAY**

Romans 5:2-5 says, "And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us." Are you assuming that God wants you to be happy? What if God wanted more for you than happiness? Are you willing to lay down your happiness in favor of his purpose?

## **FRIDAY**

Romans 8:24 says, "But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?" What are you waiting in anticipation for?

## **SATURDAY**

Ephesians 1:18-19a says, "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe." Do you understand what Jesus has called you to do? Do you realize that God has given you the power to complete your purpose?

## **SUNDAY**

Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." How has your faith grown in the last year? If it hasn't grown, are your hopes too small?