**Old School – Week 2 (Abraham and Sarah – God’s Timing)**

**June 15-16, 2019**

**(Leaders Note: Start the message by showing “The Marshmallow Video”)**

If you were honest, how many of you would say that you can be a pretty patient person? (Let students raise hands). Now…how many of you would say you are NOT a patient person? You don’t like waiting! You get antsy. It feels like time goes so much slower.

How many of you can remember the first time you rode a roller coaster? Remember how nervous you were! The line felt like it was so long and your heart was pounding…and YOU KNEW what was coming – that big first drop or that first loop.

**(Leaders Note: Share a personal, humorous story about waiting for something.)**

To illustrate this a little more, I need a volunteer – preferably someone who can be patient.

**(Leaders Note: Try to pick someone that you can prep beforehand. Have the student sit down on the ground or in a chair. You will put a fresh donut on a paper plate. They can’t eat it until you tell them; they can touch it, hold it, smell it, but no eating!)**

Now, it just so happens that today, I have a fresh, flaky, soft, gooey donut. Oh man…doesn’t that look good?! Can’t you just taste it in your mouth? **(insert student’s name here),** I bet you can’t wait to eat this donut, but I bet you can wait a couple more minutes, right?

**Here’s our THP for today: God’s timing is ALWAYS perfect!**

Today, our Old Testament story is about two people named Abraham and Sarah. They are an elderly couple living in Israel. In fact, their original names were different: they were Abram and Sarai. In Genesis 12, God makes a promise to Abram…an AMAZING promise.

Look at what it says in Genesis 12:1-3: *“The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

God is going to give Abraham an incredible family. It’s just like this donut illustration. It’s not that hard to be patient when you know FOR SURE that you will be receiving a reward. But then a few minutes go by…or an hour goes by…and you’re like, “Man, I’m really hungry!” You really want that reward!

Genesis goes on to tell the story of Abram and Sarai. We find out in Genesis 15 that Abram and Sarai are getting older (past the point of not being able to have kids) and they still don’t have any children. I’m sure Abram and Sarai thought, “God has let us down! He told us that we would be a great nation with many descendants and we still don’t have any kids!”

**Have you ever prayed for something and it felt like God wasn’t listening to you or wasn’t going to answer your prayer? Maybe you prayed for someone who was sick to get better…and then they didn’t or they got worse. It is very difficult to think that God lets certain things happen that don’t make any sense to us.**

How would you feel if you were Abram and Sarai? Would you lose faith in God? Would you think to yourself, “I’m never going to get that reward that God promised. Maybe I have disappointed him or He has changed His mind.” Abram and Sarai felt some of those same emotions and they began to lose hope.

**But guess what…? Everything changes! Check out what happens in Genesis 17:1-7:**

*“When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.” Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.”*

ABRAHAM WAS 99 YEARS OLD! CAN YOU IMAGINE HAVING TO WAIT THAT LONG?! However, God reminds him of the covenant He has made. He also changes his name.

Some time later, Abraham was visited by 3 men. It is widely thought that these men were angels sent by God. In Genesis 18, they tell Abraham that they will come back and visit him on the same day, 1 year from then, and Sarah will have a son. Sarah overhears this and laughs out loud…the first LOL in the Bible! There’s NO WAY they can have children now!

Guess what? One year later…let’s read Genesis 21:1-3: *“Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.”*

God fulfilled His promise and His timing was perfect. Abraham and Sarah just had to trust God and wait. God wanted them to deepen their trust in Him during their season of waiting because a season of waiting is just as important as the reward.

**What are you waiting on right now? Are you praying for something and waiting for God to answer? Are you having trouble trusting in His timing?**

**(Leaders Note: Give the student the donut)**

**God always keeps His promises…in His timing. We just need to trust Him. Let’s pray.**