



## GENESIS

*Grace from the Beginning*

**10/11 March 2018**

Vol. 40, No. 9

# Too Powerful to be Unfaithful

*Genesis 17*

### **English Services**

*(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)*

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Baptism *(10:30 a.m.)*

Worship through Fellowship

Worship through Giving

Worship in Music

Scripture Reading

Worship in the Word

*Pastor Larry Pabiona*

Benediction

### **Filipino Service**

*(3 n.h.)*

Paghahanda

Tawag sa Pagsamba

Pagsamba sa Pag-awit

Pagkilala sa mga Bisita

Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay

Natatanging Bilang

Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos

Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos

*Pastor Sam Rendal*

Pangwakas na Panalangin  
at Basbas

See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.



# Too Powerful to be Unfaithful

Today's Message (10/11 March 2018) /  
*Genesis 17*

WHAT WOULD  
OUR FAMILIES,  
CHURCHES,  
MARRIAGES,  
AND BUSINESSES  
LOOK LIKE IF  
WE WERE TO  
SEEK GOD'S  
TRUE WILL,  
RATHER THAN  
ASKING HIM TO  
ACQUIESCE TO  
OUR OWN?

Perhaps you've experienced being branded negatively, or being called names you don't deserve. So how would you feel, if instead, you were given a name that speaks positively of you? Before us is a story with four new names. And all of it because of a new covenant (i.e., agreement) that God gave Abram out of faithfulness to what He had promised in Genesis chapters 12 and 15.

God required Abraham to keep his part of this new covenant through the sign of circumcision, because God would fulfill His part of the covenant to make him the father of many nations through Isaac. Here's a story that should inspire us to faithful and complete obedience, trusting God regardless of circumstances:

## 1. OUR GOD HAS THE POWER TO BE FAITHFUL TO HIS WORD (VV. 1-8)

- God begins by introducing a new Name for Himself: the All-Powerful God ("El Shaddai").
- After establishing a new covenant, God changes Abram's name from "exalted father" to "father of many nations" (Abraham). This is God's way of telling Abraham that no matter what happens, God has the power to keep His Word (2 Timothy 2:13).

## 2. OUR GOD EXPECTS OUR PERSONAL FAITHFULNESS TO HIS WORD (VV. 9-14)

- God gave Abraham the conditional part of the covenant, a requirement to show faithfulness—through circumcision.
- In our time, circumcision has been superseded by both an internal (a changed heart, Romans 2:29) and external counterpart (baptism, Matthew 28:19-20). In response to God's faithfulness to us, we are expected to follow His Word (James 1:22-25).

### Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6 p.m.)

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Giving

Worship in Music

Doxology

Worship through Fellowship

Scripture Reading

Preparatory Hymn

Worship in the Word

*Pastor Larry Pabiona*

Response Hymn

Benediction



# Too Powerful to be Unfaithful

Today's Message (10/11 March 2018) /  
*Genesis 17*

## 3. OUR GOD WILL DO EVEN THE IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVE HIS FAITHFULNESS TO HIS WORD (VV. 15-21)

- God imposes a name change for Sarai (“my princess”) to Sarah (“princess”) and connects this with the promise of a son. But 25 years of childlessness is too much for Abraham. He found the prospect of Sarah’s pregnancy amusing, and God doesn’t let him get away with it. Isaac’s name (“he laughs”) will forever remind him of his unbelief, fleeting though it was.
- Ishmael is not forgotten, but princes, not kings, will descend from him. He will become a great nation, but Isaac is the one with whom the covenant will be confirmed.
- God’s people are sometimes willing to settle for less than what God has in mind. Instead of living by faith and receiving what is awesome, we are content to live by sight and settle for the ordinary. What would our families, churches, marriages, and businesses look like if we were to seek God’s true will, rather than asking him to acquiesce to our own?

## 4. WE PROVE OUR FAITHFULNESS TO GOD BY PROMPT OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD (VV. 22-27)

- Abraham’s prompt obedience to circumcise his household and the content of the covenant itself make this day one of the greatest days in redemptive history. The covenant promises are the charter for Israel and are incredible in scope, but God can fulfill them just as surely as He kept the impossible promise of a son for Abraham!
- Whatever reluctance he first had in believing Sarah’s future pregnancy, Abraham made up for it with his swift obedience to the condition of circumcision. Have you shown your commitment to God’s covenant by applying the sign of covenant membership today? It’s called Baptism.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

How might things be different if we fully embraced Paul’s Ephesian prayer? “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen” (*Ephesians 3:20–21*). What if we, as Abraham did, learned to submit the “impossible” to the power of the Almighty God?

Fellow sojourner, be faithfully obedient to the God who is eternally faithful to you. He is too powerful to be unfaithful to His Word ■



Last February 11, we as a GCF family gathered together to celebrate the goodness, faithfulness, and love of God to kickoff this year-long celebration of the church's 40th year. On behalf of the Worship Ministry, please accept our heartfelt thanks for all the prayers for the worship service program. Thank you for your support and kind understanding for the team, even with unexpected concerns that came up, such as the length of the actual gathering, Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to Your Name be the glory, because of Your love and faithfulness (*Psalms 115:1*).

Now, allow me to reintroduce the bigger Worship Ministry and its leaders. Their contact details are included as well should there be some in our beloved spiritual community who would like to be part of the team:

1. **Boots Dizon** - Overall Ministry Coordinator (part-time) and 4Word Music Head (0916 574 7255)
2. **Josh Capule** - Music Director and Chancel Choir Conductor (0915 601 1211)
3. **Betty Rendal** - Senior's Choir Conductor (0920 560 7514)
4. **Des Batalla** - Youth Choir Conductor (0939 931 9811)

5. **Kathy Alvarado** - Praise Factory Music Head (0917 793 7989)
6. **Zeb Zuniga** - Harvest Music Head (0917 845 3409)
7. **Lani Ligot** - 6:33 Music Head (0917 527 6710)
8. **Ruth Quiambao** - Ushering Ministry Head (0917 881 5134)
9. **Elmer Santos** - Visitor's Center Ministry Head (0922 899 0326)
10. **Pastor Jojun Loanzon** - Communications/Multimedia Ministry Head (0917 896 8926)
11. **Joey Aracama** - Technical Services Consultant and Production Team Head (0917 830 0766)

As for me, you may reach me at 0917 541 1127 or e-mail me at [miguel.orleans@gcf.org.ph](mailto:miguel.orleans@gcf.org.ph). More than familiarizing ourselves with the leadership and the opportunities under the Worship Ministry, please do pray and keep praying for us.

Also, I would like to remind everyone that the Oikos Training scheduled today at 12 noon will meet at the Fellowship Hall. A blessed day, GCF family! ■



# Ablaze Devotional

**Immediately Jesus spoke to them. "Have courage! It is I.**

**Don't be afraid."**

**"Come!" He said.**

*- Matthew 14:27, 29 (HCSB)*

One's journey of faith may have started with a great desire to do great things for God. We are filled with the desire to walk in obedience to Him—wanting to express faith into serving in the ministry, diligent studying the Scripture, having an excitement to experience the fellowship of believers. But one way or another, our journey of faith takes a slight turn. Our faith journey goes to a season of trouble, even to a time of not hearing from God.

However, in such a season, God would seem to speak and manifest Himself in an unexpected way. The disciples just witnessed and participated in feeding 5,000 people from only a few loaves. Then, Jesus sent the disciples ahead and went to a solitary place. They are left alone, without Jesus, on a boat tossed by the waters. They panic. Then they see Jesus walking on water, terrified all the more. Jesus invites Peter to step out of the boat and come to Him on the water. Peter steps out, was able to walk towards Jesus, doubted, but still Jesus saves Him. The disciples are left in awe.

Sometimes, hearing from God means to attempt the impossible for Him. Let us ask God for strength and courage to put our faith into action. It may look like asking for or extending forgiveness from people. It could look like standing by and listening with those who are different from us, or giving voice to those who could not speak for themselves. And if we fail to exhibit such things, let us be assured that He rescues us when our faith gives out, leaving us exclaiming that truly, He is the Son of God ■

## GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS AT THE CHAPEL:

**The GCF Hour of Prayer**  
*Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.*

**Midweek Prayer Service**  
*Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.*

## Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements



### BE WELL! (SUPAMOMS FELLOWSHIP)

*Health talk with speaker Dr. Annie Paloma*  
+ ZUMBA Fellowship

March 17 (Sat.), 8 a.m. to 12 nn., Fellowship Hall  
Open to all single moms, unmarried moms, and surrogate moms



### OIKOS TRAINING FOR ALL

*Learn to reach out to your own community*

March 18 (Sun.), after the 10:30 a.m. service  
Venue to be announced | Snacks will be served  
Contact Noli at 0917 625 0244 to pre-register



### SINGLE AND BEAUTIFUL

*SHE Ministry talk with Dr. Orpah Marasigan*

March 24 (Sat.), 9 a.m. to 12 nn., BM07-08  
Contact 0917 532 7794 to register  
Lunch will be served



### BIBLICAL PORTRAIT OF MARRIAGE I

*Learn about the roles and responsibilities of husbands, wives, and of the couple*

April 7, 14, & 21 (Sat.) 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
at the Fellowship Hall | **Last day of reg.: March 25**  
Contact Dana at 0917 532 7741 to register

### STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

*March 2018*

	March Budget	Received, Mar. 1-7
General	8,156,063	2,105,255
Missions	927,000	268,400

  

	Jan. - Mar. Budget	Received, Jan. - Mar.
General	28,952,111	16,284,556
Missions	2,781,000	1,946,536

### Flower Ministry

*The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness, grace and blessings by an anonymous donor, the Basilad family, the Valera family, and the Messiah College.*

Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.



## Journey With One: Investing in life-on-life relationships

by Pastor Ian de Ocampo

I can say that a big part of my growth in love for Christ and in my passion for ministry was stirred by the *lives imparted* to me by my disciplers and mentors when I was younger. We may think that discipleship is about taking lessons and memorizing concepts, but it is so much more than that.

Early on, I experienced this kind of relationship in our youth ministry. My discipler would put in the extra effort to go out with me, to have fun with me, and to just *be* with me. He always prayed with and for me, and showed me (not just told me) that there is a God who loves me. I thought that important Christian life lessons are learned in classrooms, but I can say that I learned more just by spending regular time with him. He always gave me a listening ear and allowed me to ask questions and be curious, without being judged.

In time, I also grew to have a heart to share my life in a similar way through our campus ministry. Having that sense of deep relationships that eventually grow as communities around loving God and His Word gave me such joy that it inspired me to be a pastor. But the call to establish and invest on life-on-life relationships are not just for pastors.

That's why our theme this year is "Journey With One," and that's why we encourage everyone to reach out to their *oikos*. We desire that every GCFer would immerse their lives into another's, knowing and being involved in who they are and sharing the warmth of Christ's love in a manner so deep that they would encounter Him. And by investing in them and showing (not just proclaiming) the love of Christ to them, we hope that they would also come to a saving knowledge of Him ■

**ON THE COVER:** Europe, Middle East, and northern Africa from space ([pixabay.com](http://pixabay.com)). When God told Abraham that He has made him "a father of many nations," his idea of "many nations" could not have stretched beyond the borders of these regions. Now, as children of Abraham by faith (Galatians 3), the nations can also be blessed through us also when we share the Gospel and make disciples.

# Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

## Pass by the GGEX (Growth Group Express)!

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room B124  
Get a feel of what a Growth Group is like before you participate in one. Come and join us!

## HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE Y-GROUPS

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.,  
and 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
At GCF (Youth Center, 6th flr.)

## Life in Technicolor Support Group

*for cancer patients*  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, 12-3 p.m. at GCF  
(Seniors' Room)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

**8 a.m.:** *Ages 1-3, B415; Ages 4-5, B410; Age 6, B414; Age 7, B403; Age 8, B413, Ages 9-10, B411; Ages 11-12, B409; Transition Age 13, B406*

**10:30 a.m.:** *Ages 1-2, B412; Age 3, B415; Age 4, B408; Age 5, B410; Age 6A, B402; Age 6B, B403; Age 7, B401; Age 8, B413; Age 9, B411; Age 10, B414; Age 11, B409; Age 12, B405; Transition Age 13, B406*

**3 p.m.:** *Ages 1-5, B415; Ages 6-9, B402; Ages 10-12, B403*

**5:30 p.m.:** *Ages 1-5, B415; Age 6, B402; Ages 7-9, B401; Ages 10-12, B403; Transition Age 13, B404*

**Nursery:** *2<sup>nd</sup> flr. for nursing moms and babies aged one week to 11 months old*

**Yayas:** *8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., B404*

**Sunday School Parents' Class:**  
*9:30 a.m., B406*

*If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form inside this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag or submit it to the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 7740.*



## Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357

Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

E-mail: [email@gcf.org.ph](mailto:email@gcf.org.ph) • Website: [www.gcf.org.ph](http://www.gcf.org.ph)

# How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**  
(Specify age group: \_\_\_\_\_)  
(Specify group composition: \_\_\_\_\_)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_ Landline no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): \_\_\_\_\_

*Today is **10/11 March 2018**, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# God's Way to Heaven

## THE GOSPEL

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”  
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

## THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

**God is holy and righteous:** “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory” (Isaiah 6:3). **He requires holiness of us as well:** “Be holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16).

## THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

**Man is sinful:** “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).  
**Sin demands a penalty:** “For the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).

## THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

**Christ is the expression of God's love for us:** “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God” (1 Peter 3:18). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them” (2 Corinthians 5:18).

## WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

**Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior:** “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

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**PRAYER:** *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

## Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.