



## YES, NO & MAYBE

07

1. I absolutely love it when guests come to my home unannounced.
2. My refrigerator is stocked and ready to feed some guests.
3. I am thankful that God can read my every thought.
4. Most of the miracles that God performs go unnoticed.
5. Your own salvation is dependent upon understanding that nothing is impossible for God.

### DIG DEEP

**READ: Genesis 18:1-9 (NIV)**

*1 The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. 2 Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.*

*3 He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by.*

*4 Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. 5 Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant."*

*"Very well," they answered, "do as you say."*

*6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread."*

*7 Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. 8 He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree. 9 "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him.*

*"There, in the tent," he said.*

∞ Who is the most famous or important person you've ever entertained in your home? What was your experience?

« Have you ever shown up to someone's home unannounced, and they showered you with hospitality to a level that made you uncomfortable?

- Abraham was unaware that these three men were visitors from heaven. His subservient behavior was a cultural norm, which would be considered typical politeness. This is the only place in Scripture before the Incarnation that the Lord ate a meal with a human being.

» The previous methods that God had used to communicate with Abraham were through thoughts or words that he heard from heaven. Why do you think God decided to show up physically for this reaffirmation of the promise?

» According to verse 9, who are the visitors here to see?

How  
GOD  
LEADS

## DIG DEEP...CONTINUED

### READ: Genesis 18:10-15 (NIV)

10 Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. 11 Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. 12 So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

13 Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' 14 Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

15 Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh." But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

- ∞ Most people focus on the part of the story where Sarah denies laughing, but let's focus on what God is doing in this conversation:
  - » The visitor who speaks says, "I will surely return..." which leads people to believe that this is God speaking here. He has his back to her, calls Sarah by name, and reads her thoughts, which also seems to confirm this.
  - « Hagar learned that God *sees* her. Sarah now learns that God sees *inside* her.
- ∞ In verse 14, God asks, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"
  - « Does God typically work innumerable unnoticed miracles, or does he wait until things are recognizably impossible before He acts?
  - » In what ways do we categorize what is "*impossible*" for God in our own lives?
  - « R.K. Hughes says, "...there is no way that we can possibly experience the resurrection—except for the fact that nothing is too hard for God." To what degree do you agree or disagree with this statement?
  - « What does it say about the character of God that He doesn't let us lie to ourselves or to Him? Why do you think this is important to God?

## NOTES

## TALK WITH GOD THIS WEEK ABOUT...

1. How prepared am I to welcome God into my day, no matter how busy I am?
2. What miracle(s) in my life have I already judged as no longer possible?
3. What do I see more clearly about the character of God this week?



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