

# WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

May 10-16

**Sunday** Read Genesis 17:3-8, 15-17

- Glance to the footnotes and see, what does Abram's new name mean? How is this ironic? What was Abraham and Sarah's condition up to this point?
- What does this new name actually say about *God*? What was God saying to Abraham here?
- And can God be trusted to keep His word?
- What promises of God mean the most to you personally?

**Monday** Read Genesis 32:22-31

- Glance to the footnotes and see, what does Jacob's new name mean? What might this mean about Jacob (and even those who follow in his footsteps)? Is the road of relationship with God guaranteed to be a smooth one?
- How have those moments of wrestling with God shown up in your life?
- Yet, what does God promise? Where is our victory?

**Tuesday** Read Matthew 1:18-21, Romans 4:18-25

- What does the name of Jesus mean (from the context, or from the footnotes)?
- From Jesus's name in Aramaic, we know that the last major Bible figure to have this same name is "Joshua." How might this name particularly appropriate for Jesus?
- Who are "God's people" today (look especially to Romans 4:23-24)? What does this mean for you, that "he will save his people from their sins"?

**Wednesday** Read Daniel 1:1-21, 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

- What names did all these people start off with? And what names did they later receive?
- Did this name change, imposed by human beings, actually change *who they were*?
- What identities has the world tried to give you? What has this world (and even your own sinfulness) tried to convince you that you are?
- Who are you *truly*, in Christ? What does this mean for your purpose (your message)?

**Thursday** Read Acts 13:6-12, 1 Timothy 2:7

- What was Paul's birth name?
- Look again at the end of 1 Timothy 2:7. What culture was Saul's main target for preaching? Since Saul is a Jewish name... and Paul is a Gentile name... what could Saul have been trying to do in changing his name?
- In what ways is God calling you to give up something comfortable, in order to meet other people where they are?

**Friday** Read Exodus 3:1-1

- How does God refer to Himself here?
- What was Moses's life like before? While Moses himself doesn't get a new name, how does his identity change—forever—because of his encounter with God?
- How does *your* identity change forever, because of your encounter with God? What changes can you praise God for throughout your life? What changes can you be working on, by the power of His Spirit?

**Saturday** Read Revelation 21:1-8, Hebrews 13:8

- How does Jesus refer to himself here, in Revelation (verse 6)?
- What does this say about him? How does this name relate to the Hebrews passage?
- What fear might there be in this Name, for those who oppose God?
- How does the *very same name* provide *comfort* for *believers*?