

## ***The Grace of a Good Laugh***

[Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7](#)

### **EXPLORING THE SERMON**

- \* What did you hear?
- \* What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- \* What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

### **KEY VERSES**

*<sup>10</sup> Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. <sup>11</sup> Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. <sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?" <sup>13</sup> The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' <sup>14</sup> Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>15</sup> But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "Yes, you did laugh."*

### **MINI-REFLECTION**

When God arrived at the home of Sarah and Abraham and told Abraham that Sarah would have a baby one year later, Sarah laughed at the idea! Laughter is a gift of grace from God, and we know that God delights in the sound of our laughter (under appropriate circumstances). **Who are the people or circumstances in your life that bring you laughter?**

God's response, "Why did Sarah laugh...Is anything too wonderful for the Lord?" is a beautiful verse for many reasons. "Wonderful" is used in the NRSV version, and "hard" is used in The Message. Think about how things can be wonderful and hard all at the same time. **When have you laughed at something "wonderful" or "hard" that God was bringing into your life?**

The passage ends with God calling out Sarah for her laughter. Sarah was afraid to admit to God that she laughed upon hearing his message. God knows our responses and feelings as deeply as we might try to hide them. **Why do you think Sarah tried to hide her laughter from God?**