

Sarah: Hoping Against Hope

Chapter 2, Twelve Extraordinary Women, by John MacArthur

1. What are your first thoughts about Sarai (or Sarah)?
2. We first discover Sarah when she was 65 years old. At that time, she was beautiful but had no children. Why was it so important that a woman have children?
3. List Sarah's strengths and weaknesses. Now list your strengths and weaknesses. In what ways are you and Sarah similar? In what ways are you different?
4. Because she was childless, Sarah is characterized as frustrated and resentful. When you don't get what you expect, what words can be used to characterize the way you act? Is this a good thing or a bad thing? Explain your response.
5. Sarah's actions reveal that she was totally devoted to her husband. Your life reveals the people and/or things to which you are totally devoted. What does your life say is important to you?

6. In spite of her years of childlessness, Sarah remained confident that God would do what He promised to do. Your life is characterized by hope. For what are you hoping? How confident are you that God will do what you expect?
7. Read Genesis 17:20–21. How do you think Sarah felt when she heard these words?
8. What was significant about Sarah's laughter in Genesis 18:15? How important is it that we be honest with God?
9. What life principles did you learn from the study of Sarah's life? How will you apply these principles to your life?