

Study Guide

Pray: Pray that God will show you something new in His Word and that you will be fully present as you consider these questions.

Read: Begin by reading Genesis 20 and 21:1-7.

Questions:

1. Was there anything in the passage read during the week or in the lecture (Friday morning) that was of particular interest, surprised you or caused you concern in the chapters this week?

Genesis 20 is inserted here as a sub-story, as we read about Abraham repeating the same sin he had committed in Egypt (**Genesis 12**).

2. Abimelech is king of Gerar, a place named in the Table of Nations (Genesis 10:18 &19), it is settled by which tribe or people group?

3. What manipulation did Abram use to convince Sarai to go along with the deception of being only his sister? verse 20 Has anyone ever used this kind of manipulation on you?

4. What clue do we have that this was a repeated, habitual deception of Abraham and Sarah's? (even though we only see them caught in it twice), again see verse 20

5. Are there any deceptive habits, or withholding of truth that you repeat in life? Can you name any instances in which you've resorted to half-truths to protect yourself or to gain an advantage? (eg. in the workplace, concerning financial issues, concerning relationships with the opposite sex?).

6. Why do we tell half-truths instead of the whole truth or plain truth?

7. What does this tell us about our ability to trust God for the outcome?

8. In Chapter 20, verse 2 – who is in ‘power’ and who carries the greatest fear?

- By verse 7 who has the greatest fear? And to whom must he go to make amends?

God is the difference. The one who is blessed by God is the one who is in the position of power and need have no fear.

9. In Genesis 21, verse 6 how is Sarah’s laughter in V6 different from the reason she laughed before God’s promise to her was fulfilled (read Genesis 18:9-15 to refresh your memory)?

10. Is there a promise in the Bible that causes you to laugh? Does your laughter come from disbelief, genuine hope, or the joy of a promise fulfilled?

In Isaiah 51 we are reminded to trust God and not fear man, read Isaiah 51: 7 & 8

As we enter Advent season and the arrival of the promised Saviour, consider the prophecies of the Old Testament about the child of promise, the Messiah yet to come. Enjoy these promises and the celebration of their fulfillment in Christ in the coming weeks.

Isaiah 7:14

Isaiah 9:6

Micah 5:2