**Lesson 14 Genesis 20 & 21**

**Abimelech, Isaac & Ishmael**

**Chapter 20**

1. *Challenge Question:* What are some of the differences between the events in Genesis 20 and Genesis 12:10-20 that suggest that they are two entirely separate events in Abraham’s life?

10 There was famine in the land; so Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, since the famine in the land was severe.

11 When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai: “I know that you are a beautiful woman.

12 When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘She is his wife’; then they will kill me, but let you live.

13 Please say, therefore, that you are my sister,\* so that I may fare well on your account and my life may be spared for your sake.”

14 When Abram arrived in Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful.

15 When Pharaoh’s officials saw her they praised her to Pharaoh, and the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house.

16 Abram fared well on her account, and he acquired sheep, oxen, male and female servants, male and female donkeys, and camels.

17 But the LORD struck Pharaoh and his household with severe plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife.

18 Then Pharaoh summoned Abram and said to him: “How could you do this to me! Why did you not tell me she was your wife?

19 Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her for my wife? Now, here is your wife. Take her and leave!”

20 Then Pharaoh gave his men orders concerning Abram, and they sent him away, with his wife and all that belonged to him.

2. Why does Abraham’s action in Gen.20 surprise you? In what way does it not surprise you?

3. In what way did Abraham suffer for his sin with regard to Sarah?

4. According to Romans 4:18-21, how was Abraham able to produce Isaac?

18 He believed, hoping against hope, that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “Thus shall your descendants be.”

19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body as [already] dead (for he was almost a hundred years old) and the dead womb of Sarah.

20 He did not doubt God’s promise in unbelief;\* rather, he was empowered by faith and gave glory to God

21 and was fully convinced that what he had promised he was also able to do.

**Chapter 21**

5. Read Gen.21:9-21 and Galatians 4:19-31.

Gen.21:9-21

9 Sarah noticed the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham playing with her son Isaac;

10 so she demanded of Abraham: “Drive out that slave and her son! No son of that slave is going to share the inheritance with my son Isaac!”

11Abraham was greatly distressed because it concerned a son of his.

12 But God said to Abraham: Do not be distressed about the boy or about your slave woman. Obey Sarah, no matter what she asks of you; for it is through Isaac that descendants will bear your name.

13 As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also,\* since he too is your offspring.

14 Early the next morning Abraham got some bread and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. Then, placing the child on her back,\* he sent her away. As she roamed aimlessly in the wilderness of Beer-sheba,

15 the water in the skin was used up. So she put the child down under one of the bushes,

16 and then went and sat down opposite him, about a bowshot away; for she said to herself, “I cannot watch the child die.” As she sat opposite him, she wept aloud.

17 God heard the boy’s voice, and God’s angel called to Hagar from heaven: “What is the matter, Hagar? Do not fear; God has heard the boy’s voice in this plight of his.

18 Get up, lift up the boy and hold him by the hand; for I will make of him a great nation.”

19 Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water, and then let the boy drink.

20 God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the wilderness and became an expert bowman.

21 He lived in the wilderness of Paran. His mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Galatians 4:19-31

19 My children, for whom I am again in labor until Christ be formed in you!k 20I would like to be with you now and to change my tone, for I am perplexed because of you.

21 Tell me, you who want to be under the law, do you not listen to the law?

22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the freeborn woman

23 The son of the slave woman was born naturally, the son of the freeborn through a promise.

24 Now this is an allegory. These women represent two covenants. One was from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; this is Hagar

25 Hagar represents Sinai,\* a mountain in Arabia; it corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery along with her children. 26But the Jerusalem above is freeborn, and she is our mother.

27 For it is written: “Rejoice, you barren one who bore no children; break forth and shout, you who were not in labor; for more numerous are the children of the deserted one than of her who has a husband.”\*

28 Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of the promise.

29 But just as then the child of the flesh persecuted the child of the spirit, it is the same now.

30 But what does the scripture say? “Drive out the slave woman and her son! For the son of the slave woman shall not share the inheritance with the son” of the freeborn.

31Therefore, brothers, we are children not of the slave woman but of the freeborn woman.

A. Which sins of Hagar were reproduced in her child?

B. In what ways did Ishmael himself make it impossible to continue living in Abraham’s home?

6. Give at least two reasons for God’s command to Abraham to send Hagar and Ishmael away that worked out for Isaac and Ishmael’s good.

7. Did God continue to care for them? Give the verses.

8. *Challenge Question:* What lessons do we learn from the life of Hagar?

9. In what way was peace within Abraham’s home followed by recognition of God’s presence by the outside world? What spiritual lesson can we draw from this?

22 At that time Abimelech, accompanied by Phicol, the commander of his army, said to Abraham: “God is with you in everything you do.

23 So now, swear to me by God at this place\* that you will not deal falsely with me or with my progeny and posterity, but will act as loyally toward me and the land in which you reside as I have acted toward you.”

24 Abraham replied, “I so swear.”

25 Abraham, however, reproached Abimelech about a well that Abimelech’s servants had seized by force.

26 “I have no idea who did that,” Abimelech replied. “In fact, you never told me about it, nor did I ever hear of it until now.”

27 Then Abraham took sheep and cattle and gave them to Abimelech and the two made a covenant.

28 Abraham also set apart seven ewe lambs of the flock,

29 and Abimelech asked him, “What is the purpose of these seven ewe lambs that you have set apart?”

30 Abraham answered, “The seven ewe lambs you shall accept from me that you may be my witness that I dug this well.”

31 This is why the place is called Beer-sheba; the two of them took an oath there.

32 When they had thus made the covenant in Beer-sheba, Abimelech, along with Phicol, the commander of his army, left to return to the land of the Philistines.\*

33 Abraham planted a tamarisk at Beer-sheba, and there he invoked by name the LORD, God the Eternal.\*

34 Abraham resided in the land of the Philistines for a long time.

10. A. Give two points in verses 22-34 that show Abraham’s honesty in dealing with Abimelech and his acknowledgement of God in every situation in life.



b. Look up Beersheba on your map.