



Rescued - Genesis 20-21

Week Twelve: Refusing Unbelief

1. We are constantly tempted to _____

2. When we stop believing we lose our _____
3. God _____ us despite our unbelief
4. We have no _____ to stop believing God
5. When God rescues us from unbelief he _____
our _____

I don't know about you, but I'm a little bit glad to be done with the story of Lot. Last week wasn't an easy week, but oh, how much we learned! I hope your heart is as hungry to live purely as mine is.

We're about to hit a huge week, though, because the promise is finally going to come through! A child is about to be born. I hope you're ready for it!



Day One: Been There Done That

No, today's reading is not a déjà vue. I wish it was. Instead, we're about to see how Abraham revisits the land of unbelief as he lets fear dictate his path once more.

Read Genesis 20:1-8.

Exploring the Text

1. Describe Abraham's actions in vs.1-7.
2. How does God deal with Abraham's actions?

3. How does God demonstrate his compassion for Abimelech when the king added Sarah to his harem?

did you know

4. What is your impression of Abimelech as you read today's verses?

Have you ever gotten in trouble because you didn't trust God to take care of you? Did you take matters into your own hands and in the process cut some moral or ethical corners? If so, you have company!

5. Who do you think Abimelech and his servants were afraid of?

[illegible]

6. Can you think of an example where the ungodly demonstrated more integrity than the godly?

7. In what ways may you sometimes bend the truth to protect yourself?



Day Two: Fess Up

We're about to find out that God doesn't allow his children to get away with sin. He protects us despite us, and he acts on our behalf even when we don't deserve it.

I pray you're beginning to fall in love all over again with this God of ours!

Why don't you read Genesis 20:9-18 today.

Exploring the Text

1. How does good king Abimelech approach Abraham with the truth?
2. What reasons does Abraham give for what he did?
3. Was Sarah in fact Abraham's sister?

4. Though Sarah was Abraham's sister, was what Abraham did still wrong? Why?

did you know

When we are foolish, we should remember that God's plan and promises for our lives can't be destroyed even through our foolishness.

5. Abimelech's response to Abraham in vs.14-15 is interesting. Explain why you think he acted like he did.

6. In vs.17 Abraham again acts as intercessor. Describe what happens.

Personal Application

7. Have you ever let fear control your actions? Describe a situation either in the past, or right now where you've let fear take control.
8. Sin is a big deal whether you think it's a big sin or a small one. Are there any little sins in your life that may end up being a big deal if you don't repent? Take some time and confess them now.

Application for
your life?
Record your
thoughts here.

[illegible]



Day Three: Finally

They've waited it seems like forever for this son of promise! But the waiting is over and a son is about to be born.

Can you hear the cheering? Can you feel the excitement? A son is born. A son is born. It's time for a celebration!

Let's read Genesis 21:1-7.

Exploring the Text

1. Write down verse 1.
2. When did God give Abraham a son? (hint: the answer is given in vs.2).
3. What does the name Isaac mean?

4. How old was Abraham when he had Isaac?

5. Sarah laughs again in vs.6, but it's a different kind of laughter now. How would you describe her laughter now?

verse

Genesis 21:1

The Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised.

[illegible]

6. God does everything in His time. Is there anything you are waiting on God to give you right now? After today's reading, are you willing to wait just a little bit longer?

7. God is in the business of making impossible things possible. Is there anything in your life right now that you think is impossible? How does the story of the birth of Isaac encourage you to keep on keeping on?

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Day Four: Back to the Wilderness

Remember Hagar? Well, we're about to meet her again, and not in a good way. I hope you'll learn this by the end of today: it's never a good idea to use your maid to get a son.

Meanwhile, pray for compassion towards people who threaten us and make our lives difficult. Pray for wisdom to do the right thing always, even when it may seem to hurt someone in the short run.

Now read Genesis 21:8-21.

Exploring the Text

1. In what ways was Sarah herself the main source of her problems with Hagar and Ishmael?
2. What is Sarah's solution to the problem of Ishmael and Hagar?
3. Why did God instruct Abraham to carry out Sarah's demand that Hagar and Ishmael be driven from their home? Use Galatians 4:21-31 for help.

4. What does Hagar take with her into the wilderness?

5. How does Hagar feel about herself and her life at this point?

verse

Isaiah 40:28-29

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary: his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

6. How does God help and encourage Hagar in her hour of crisis?

7. Describe how God's character comes across in vs.17-20.

8. Write down the first sentence in verse 19.

Personal Application

9. Have you ever found yourself wandering in the wilderness? What led you to that place?

Application for
your life?
Record your
thoughts here.

10. “Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water.” Sometimes the water is right in front of us and we cannot see it. Write down a prayer asking God to open your eyes to see the well of water he has provided for you!



Day Five: Beersheba

I love the things we are learning in the book of Genesis. Just this week we've looked at Abraham's fear when facing Abimelech, we studied the birth of Isaac, we stopped a while with Hagar in the wilderness, and now we move onto the last portion of our study with a look at Abraham's influence on his world.

Read Genesis 21:22-34.

Exploring the Text

1. What does Abimelech notice about Abraham's life in vs.22?
2. What does Abimelech's request in vs.23 show about his attitude toward Abraham?

prayer

Ask God to help you identify and surrender to him any fear or anxiety that undermines your confidence and trust in him.

3. What did Abimelech ask Abraham to promise when they made a covenant?

4. How does Abraham handle the tension over the well with his new friend King Abimelech?

Application for
your life?
Record your
thoughts here.

Personal Application

5. Can the unsaved people in your life say this about you: "God is with you in all that you do"? Why or why not?
6. In I Corinthians 10:11 we are told that the events in the Old Testament happened as an example for us. What have you learned this week from Abraham and his family?
7. How can God's grace and faithfulness to the main characters in this week's study motivate you to trust him the next time you are filled with fear and doubt?