

STUDY EIGHTEEN

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

Genesis 20 & 21

Introduction

This study consists of four short stories. Abraham again comes very close to losing the opportunity to have a son because of his fear. God is faithful and makes sure that Abraham's son is born just as he has promised. It has taken a long time for the promise to be fulfilled and Abraham has not always acted faithfully to see it fulfilled but God is gracious.

Questions For Discussion

1.a) Why did Abraham not tell the whole truth about his relationship with Sarah (20:1-2, 11-13)?

b) Whom was he concerned about?

c) Why did God speak to Abimelech in a dream (20:3-7)?

d) Why was it so important to God that Isaac be born just as he had promised?

2.a) In what way is Isaac's birth similar to Jesus birth (21:1-7)? (See also Gen. 18:14 & Lk. 1:26-38)

b) How was Abraham enabled to become a father? (See Heb. 11:11-12)

3.a) Why did Abraham send Hagar and Ishmael away?

b) Why was Ishmael mocking Isaac?

4.a) What did Abimelech discover about Abraham (21:22)?

b) How can we show our society today that God is with us? (See Mt. 5:13-14)

5.a) Did Abraham show respect to Abimelech?

b) How can we show respect to unbelievers?

6. What is the main difference between Abraham and Abimelech (21:32-33)?

7. What can we learn about God from these stories (20:3, & 17-18, 21:1-2, 6, 12, 17, 19, 22 & 33)?

For Further Thought And Action

Meditate on the ways that God has been gracious to you.

Memory Verse

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.

Psalm 145:13