STUDY & REFLECT

Following the promise

Genesis 20: How does fear shape Abraham's actions? What does Abimelech's response reveal about integrity? (20:1-18)

Genesis 21: How does God show faithfulness to Sarah and care for Hagar and Ishmael? (21:1-21)

Genesis 22: What do Abraham's actions reveal about trust? How does God provide? (22:1-19)

Genesis 23: What does Abraham's purchase of a burial place suggest about grief, dignity, and his connection to the promised land? (23:1-20)

Prayer focus
Ask for honesty when afraid, patience while waiting, trust in God's provision, and faithfulness through loss.

Read Genesis 20-23 in full.
Paraphrased summary; no specific Bible translation used.

GENESIS 23:1-20

Grief and a burial place

Sarah dies at 127. She dies at Kiriath-arba (Hebron) in Canaan. Abraham mourns and weeps for her.

Abraham seeks a burial site. Living as a foreigner among the Hittites, he asks to purchase property where he can bury Sarah.

A public purchase. Abraham negotiates with Ephron for the cave of Machpelah and its field. He pays 400 shekels of silver before witnesses at the city gate.

Sarah is buried. The field and cave become Abraham's legally recognized burial property in Canaan.

Key theme: faith amid loss
Abraham grieves while securing a lasting family burial place in the land God promised.

A BIBLE STUDY BROCHURE

GENESIS 20-23

Promise, Trust & Legacy

God preserves his promise through fear, waiting, testing, and loss.

Four chapter summaries, key themes, and study questions.

GENESIS 20:1-18

Fear and God's protection

Abraham repeats a deception. In Gerar, he identifies Sarah as his sister, concealing that she is his wife. King Abimelech takes her into his household.

God intervenes. In a dream, God warns Abimelech that Sarah is married. Abimelech has not approached her, and God acknowledges having kept him from sinning.

The truth comes out. Abraham explains that he feared being killed because of Sarah. She is his half-sister, but his account concealed their marriage.

Sarah is restored. Abimelech returns her and gives gifts. Abraham prays, and God heals Abimelech's household, whose women had been unable to bear children.

Key theme: grace and integrity
God protects Sarah despite Abraham's failure. Fear does not excuse deception.

GENESIS 21:1-34

A son and God's care

Isaac is born. God fulfills his promise to Sarah. Abraham, now 100, names the child Isaac and circumcises him on the eighth day. Sarah rejoices. (vv. 1-7)

Hagar and Ishmael leave. After conflict involving Ishmael, Sarah demands their departure. God tells Abraham to listen to her and promises to make Ishmael a nation too. (vv. 8-14)

God hears in the wilderness. When their water runs out, Hagar despairs. God hears the boy, reassures her, and opens her eyes to a well. Ishmael grows up in the wilderness. (vv. 15-21)

A covenant at Beersheba. Abimelech recognizes God's presence with Abraham. They settle a dispute over a well and swear an oath. Abraham calls on the everlasting God. (vv. 22-34)

Key theme: God is faithful
He fulfills his promise and cares for those in distress.

GENESIS 22:1-24

Testing and provision

Abraham is tested. God tells him to offer Isaac in the region of Moriah. Abraham travels there, and Isaac asks about the lamb. Abraham says God will provide. (vv. 1-8)

God stops the sacrifice. As Abraham prepares to sacrifice Isaac, the angel of the LORD calls him to stop. Isaac is spared. (vv. 9-12)

A ram is provided. Abraham sees a ram caught by its horns and offers it instead of Isaac. He names the place to remember the LORD's provision. (vv. 13-14)

The promise is reaffirmed. God renews his promises of descendants and blessing to all nations. The chapter closes with news of Nahor's family, including Rebekah. (vv. 15-24)

Key theme: trust and provision
This unique test ends with God stopping the killing; it does not authorize harming children.