

Living as Sons and Daughters of Abraham Series

Session 10: God's Faithfulness in Our Frailty

Key Scriptures: Genesis 17-20

1. God's Promise vs. Human Struggle

- In **Genesis 17**, God establishes covenant through circumcision and calls Abraham to “**walk blameless**.”
- God clearly promises that **Sarah herself**—despite her age—will bear a son.
- Both Abraham and Sarah **laugh**, revealing how difficult it can be to fully trust a promise that feels impossible.
- This tension shows a very human reality: **God can speak clearly, yet we can struggle to walk in belief of His promise.**

Key Insight: *When God's promise feels bigger than our capacity, our faith is often tested—not by rebellion, but by disbelief.*

2. Repetition of the Promise (Genesis 18)

- God appears again, reaffirming that **within a year Sarah will have a son**.
- Sarah laughs privately, but God addresses her directly—showing that **nothing is hidden from Him**.
- God's repeated assurances reveal His **patience and persistence** with His people.

Key Insight: *God often repeats His promises, not because He forgets—but because we do.*

3. Intercession and Judgment (Genesis 19)

- Abraham intercedes for Sodom and Gomorrah, negotiating down to **10 righteous people**.
- Despite Abraham's appeal, the cities are destroyed due to overwhelming corruption.
- **Lot is rescued**, emphasizing God's mercy even amid judgment.
- Lot's wife looks back and becomes a pillar of salt—symbolizing attachment to what God has called us to leave behind.

Key Insight: *God's mercy does not cancel His justice—but His justice is often preceded by mercy.*

4. Fear Resurfaces: Abraham and Abimelech (Genesis 20)

- Abraham again claims Sarah is his sister—**a repeated pattern rooted in fear.**
- Abimelech takes Sarah, but God intervenes **before sin occurs**, protecting both Sarah and His promise.
- God reveals Abraham as a prophet and restores order in **alignment with His promise.**
- Abraham blames God for his “wandering,” exposing his need to protect himself.

Key Insight: *Fear often causes us to fall back into old strategies—even when God has already proven faithful.*

5. God Working Behind the Scenes

- God had **closed the wombs** of Abimelech’s household ahead of time, protecting Sarah and the promised child.
- When Abraham prays, all the wombs are opened—demonstrating God’s **sovereign timing and preparation.**
- This parallels other biblical moments (e.g., the man at the Gate Beautiful) where delay serves a **greater redemptive purpose.**

Key Insight: *God is often arranging things behind the scenes long before we understand what He is doing.*

6. Redemption, Vindication, and Grace

- Sarah is publicly **vindicated** with a gift of silver, removing reproach and accusation.
- Though Abraham fails to walk blamelessly, **God remains faithful to His covenant.**
- God’s promises are not nullified by human weakness.

Final Encouragement: *God is faithful and merciful, even when we lack faith and stumble.*

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Abraham and Sarah struggled to believe God’s promise even after repeated confirmations?

2. How does God’s intervention with Abimelech show His protection of the promise—even when Abraham fails?

3. What does Sarah’s public vindication teach us about God’s heart toward shame and accusation?

Reflection Questions

1. How does fear influence decision-making in Abraham’s life? Where do you see similar patterns in your own life?

2. What does Abraham’s repeated “she is my sister” strategy reveal about relying on old coping mechanisms? Ask Holy Spirit to show you any old coping mechanisms you may still be relying on in your life, and invite Him to teach you new ways of navigating situations that are fearful to you.

3. How does the idea of God working “behind the scenes” change the way you interpret unanswered prayers or delays?

Weekly Challenge

Trusting God Beyond My Fear

This Week:

1. **Identify one promise of God** (biblical or personal) that you have struggled to fully believe.
2. **Name the fear** that tempts you to “manage” the situation on your own, as Abraham did.
3. **Lay it down in prayer**, intentionally choosing trust over control each day this week.
4. When fear resurfaces, verbally remind yourself:
“God is already working ahead of time for His purposes.”

Optional Reflection:

Journal where you may be relying on an old plan instead of God’s present word—and ask Him to renew your trust.