

# Walk Through the Bible

## GENESIS 20-21

### OVERVIEW

In Genesis chapter 20, Abraham moves south to Gerar. As he did in Egypt, Abraham claims that Sarah is his sister and allows the king of Gerar, Abimelech, to take Sarah into his harem. The Lord strikes Abimelech and his household with infertility and warns him in a dream to return Abraham's wife to him. Abimelech heeds the warning, returns Sarah to Abraham, and offers him livestock and servants, and allows Abraham to live anywhere he pleases in the land of Gerar.

In Genesis chapter 21, Abraham and Sarah finally conceive and give birth to the promised child, Isaac. In obedience to God, Abraham sends Hagar and Ishmael away into the desert. Hagar weeps for fear of death, but the angel of God appears and reassures her of God's plan for Ismael.

Abimelech approaches Abraham to make a treaty, giving Abraham a permanent home in a place that becomes known as Beersheba.



### DISCUSSION

- Abraham lied about Sarah being his sister for the second time in their marriage (**Genesis 12:14-16; 20:1-2**). What do you think Abraham should have done?
- God spared Abimelech from death because he acted in the integrity of his heart (**Genesis 20:6**). How is integrity beneficial in the life of a believer?
- Sarah told Abraham to cast Hagar and Ishmael out into the desert and God agreed! Abraham sent them away with just a little bit of bread and water (**Genesis 21:14**). Why do you think Abraham sent his own son away with so little?
- In what ways does Ishmael's story remind you of Israel's story?
- Why did Abimelech want to form an alliance with Abraham (**Genesis 21:22-24**)?
- How does Abraham offer worship to God in Beersheba (**Genesis 21:33**)? What does that tell you about worshipping God?