

Love Notes: The Genesis of Faith Series Chapters 19-21

As promised, I have compiled the discussion notes from our Soulful Saturday meeting on **11/29/2025**. On this day we continued with the Genesis of Faith Series. We read from Genesis Chapters 16-18 and to capture the significance of the our weekly discussion of the Word, we referenced: **John 8:31-32 NLT**

[31] Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “**You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.** [32] **And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**”

Speaker Notes: *How many know there is a Father of Truth and a father of lies?*

John 42-44 NLT teaches

[42] Jesus told them, “**If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me.** [43] **Why can’t you understand what I am saying? It’s because you can’t even hear me!** [44] **For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.**

To grow in your relationship with Adonai is to live in truth. So what is the truth and how do we distinguish the truth from the lies? By knowing the Word of God. You need to know who God says you are to stand up against an entire world that works, in unison with the enemy, to teach you lies about who you are. The world will tell you “your body your choice”, but The Word of God teaches that your body is not your own for it was paid with a high cost. The world will teach you that your nose is too big, your breasts are too small, little booties don’t matter, and aging is to be avoided. Those lies will lead you to adjusting your bodies to reflect the lie, instead of fighting those lies with the truth. Believing the lie, by not combating it the truth, will lead you to an operating table, instead of the loving embrace of your Father God, The Creator of all. He is incapable of making a mistake, telling a lie, or half truth. Our Father God will never go back on His Word or contradict it.

The truth is what The Word of God says. God says you are “beautifully and wonderfully made” and Gray hair is a glorious crown worn by those who have lived right. God didn’t think His work needed any alterations or updates, when He finished creating you He said “it was good.” Meaning you are perfect, needing nothing, a finished masterpiece, a divine creation, so why do we listen to lies? It’s because we’re in shackles, slaves to sin perpetuated by a lie. When we believe alcohol, gambling, drugs, fornication, cursing, and dressing sexy is attractive, cool, or fun, a good time, and a great way to live, we are living a lie. But what does The Word of God say?

John 8:34 NLT

[34] Jesus replied, “**I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin.**

And now that we have The Word of God made flesh, Jesus, we have a choice. We can be free from the wages of sin, free from the bondage sin, and truly free to be the divine masterpiece

*that our Father God created us to be. We can walk in purpose, on purpose, fearing nothing, needing nothing, and living together in the Kingdom of God on earth and in heaven. But ultimately it is your choice. You cannot serve 2 Gods, so you must choose as **Joshua 24:14-15 CEV** teaches*

[14] Then Joshua told the people: Worship the Lord, obey him, and always be faithful. Get rid of the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived on the other side of the Euphrates River and in Egypt. [15] But if you don't want to worship the Lord, then choose here and now! Will you worship the same idols your ancestors did? Or since you're living on land that once belonged to the Amorites, maybe you'll worship their gods. I won't. My family and I are going to worship and obey the Lord!

We love to quote the last sentence in Joshua 24-15, "As for me in my house, we will serve the Lord." But we forget that to serve God is to live in Joshua 24-14, that is to Worship Him, Obey Him, Always remain Faithful, to get rid of the idols, and the lies and fears that created them. So we must know God's Word because it is The Truth that sets us free.

Recap: *Previously we discussed the beginning of Creation, Genesis, Chapters 1-3. We discussed the Light from the first day being Jesus and how He was there before the creation of everything. We discussed the spiritual and physical realities that are congruent and how everything that happens on earth, occurs in the spiritual realm first. We learned that deception begins with us believing there is an alternate or better way apart from what God says, and deception ends with us discovering there is no other way. When we discussed Genesis, Chapters 4-5, we analyzed why Cain killed Abel and studied how murder wasn't committed because of jealousy or anger, it occurred because of Cain's heart posture.*

Then, when discussing Genesis, Chapters 6-8, we looked at why the fallen angels took women for wives and we delved into the power of women, and our unique ability to steer the fate of mankind. We witnessed God's decision to cleanse the Earth of all mankind "But Noah found favor". Then, when studying Genesis Chapters, 9-10, we acknowledged that Noah's obedience was pure and righteous in God's eyes, because Noah's obedience didn't require proof or a witness. By Genesis chapter 11, God scattered mankind all over the earth to prevent them from working together to multiply evil and Noah's 3 sons become the fathers of all nations. However, it is through the lineage of Shem and His descendant, Abram, that God makes His covenant.

In Chapter 12 Abram is called by God to leave his relatives and his father's home for a place that God hasn't yet revealed. Abram does leave but takes his nephew Lot with him. In Chapter 13, he and Lot separate, Lot chooses an advantage over Abram, but Abram chooses the presence of God and gains the advantage. Then when studying Chapters 14-15 Lot is captured, and Abram takes his entire household of servants and workers to save him. Finally, and only after Abram completely separates from Lot, God makes His covenant with Abram. Last week we studied Chapters 16-18 and how Sarai invited Hagar into her marriage with Abram leading to her own suffering with the birth of Ishmael to her servant Hagar. We witnessed Abram become Abraham and Sarai become Sarah. Then God's promise of laughter, which they both did when they heard God's plans for Isaac's birth when Abraham is 100 and Sarai is 90 years old. And after some consideration, God decides to share His plan to judge Sodom and Gomorrah for the

outcry of their sins. Abraham negotiates with God to try and save his nephew and God promises to save the entire city if he can find just 10 righteous men.

Genesis: Chapter 19 (War of Faith)

Lot bows before two angels. Genesis 19:1-3 NIV

[1] The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.

[2] “My lords,” he said, “please turn aside to your servant’s house. You can wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning.” “No,” they answered, “we will spend the night in the square.” [3] But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate.

Speaker Notes: *I love how this Chapter begins just like the last Chapter. In the previous chapter, it was Abraham that was standing at the entrance that morning when the presence of God entered. This time it’s his nephew Lot, whom Abraham just negotiated with God for, standing at the entrance at night. As Abraham watched the angels head to Sodom and Gomorrah, it couldn’t have been easy not to get involved. You mean to tell me the entire area where my nephew lives is about to be covered in lava from heaven that falls like rain? I would’ve at least thought of sending a raven, Game of Thrones style, something, but not even trying to save my nephew?*

How many know it’s difficult to trust God when His plans are different from our own?

But here we pick up with God fulfilling His plan. When Lot saw them he did what he learned from his uncle Abraham. He bowed his head to the ground and acknowledged their holiness, and ran to serve them. But unlike when Abraham offered, they said “no”. But Lot insisted strongly...How many know it pays to be insistent with God? I don’t care how many doors have shut, how many rejections you’ve endured, or battles you’ve lost, or failures you’ve encountered, how long you’ve been single, how many pregnancies ended without a child, it pays to be insistent with God. Because sometimes, it’s a test. Sometimes God wants to know how much you love Him, trust Him, and how much you’ll sacrifice to have Him.

So I don’t care if you have to fight every night to prove your love, that fight is the only one that will save your life. So be insistent on God!

The city of perverse men stand outside demanding to have sex with Lot’s guests. Genesis 19:4-5 NIV

[4] Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded the house. [5] They called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them.”

Speaker Notes: *So Lot finally was able to serve these men of God, and here comes the enemy. How many know when you invite the presence of God in, the enemy stands outside the door. The enemy is after what will become of your life with God, so he doesn’t bother you when you*

aren't serving God, he comes to steal, kill, and destroy. So when you're already on the path of destruction he'll let you be, because he knows that he can trust you to finish the path he designed. After all, he designed it just for you. He knows what you believe because he taught the lies himself. He knows what you lust after because he was the one who introduced you to it.

He knows you because he groomed you when you were young. He took your pain, your fears, and your sorrow and multiplied them. He taught you ways outside of God to cope with the destructive path that God never intended for you to walk on. He taught you to only care about your desires and to have everything that you didn't get from God from him. He taught you to become friends with the world. To ignore the evil around you or worse to become it. Then he left you alone to finish his plan by deceiving you into thinking it was your plan.

Lot knew where he lived, he knew the people there, he could've lived anywhere but he chose sin city. He chose to live what he thought was freedom, and even after being captured and enslaved he returned to the place God had already rescued him from. How many know sometimes we return to the places that hurt us because of fear? How many know fear keeps us trapped when we have a key? It's not that we can't escape, or fight temptation, but fear will make us think we don't want to. Fear creates prisoners but you have nothing to fear, so why haven't you tried to get out of the prison of your making? Are you listening to lies? Does it feel like the whole city is standing at your door demanding that you give up God?

Lot negotiates with the city of perverse men in front of his home Genesis 19:6-9 NIV
[6] Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him [7] and said, "No, my friends. Don't do this wicked thing. [8] Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like with them. But don't do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof." [9] "Get out of our way," they replied. "This fellow came here as a foreigner, and now he wants to play the judge! We'll treat you worse than them." They kept bringing pressure on Lot and moved forward to break down the door.

Speaker Notes: *So Lot goes outside **alone** to negotiate and plead with the enemy. But didn't he just bow his head on the ground in acknowledgement of the presence of God? So why would he go outside without God? How many know all we have to do is believe the lie to become the children of Satan, the father of lies? If the enemy can get us to believe the lie we'll become the byproduct of the lie. We'll do everything in our power like Adam and Eve did when the enemy lied to them in the garden. We'll be unfaithful, disobedient, lustful, and we'll run from the only one who saves, God. So I'm sure Lot thought he was doing the noble thing by offering up his innocent daughters to be raped and abused. But he didn't offer himself, did he? He didn't lay down his life, but he was the first to offer his daughters up.*

Can you imagine them hearing that through the window? A whole city of men are demanding to rape the men in your home and your dad says no, take my daughters and do as you wish. So much hurt and pain could've been avoided if Lot knew the voice of a liar. So much could've been avoided if he trusted God or ran into prayer instead of running to be the savior. But instead, Lot willingly, and without any prompting, offers to sacrifice his daughters. How many

know that God knows the difference between an offering and a sacrifice? We can offer God Sunday service, but He'll move mountains if you'll sacrifice that one thing you refuse to let go. He'll change your life if you offer it in sacrifice by laying it safely in His hands, willing and fully submissive to His will. God will!

The Angels strike the men with blindness so they can't find the door to Lot's house.

Genesis 19:10-11 NIV

[10] But the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door. [11] Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness so that they could not find the door.

Lot's son-in-laws take his warning as a joke. Genesis 19:12-14 CSB

[12] Then the angels said to Lot, "Do you have anyone else here: a son-in-law, your sons and daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of this place, [13] for we are about to destroy this place because the outcry against its people is so great before the Lord, that the Lord has sent us to destroy it." [14] So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were going to marry his daughters. "Get up," he said. "Get out of this place, for the Lord is about to destroy the city!" But his sons-in-law thought he was joking.

Speaker Notes: *How many know there is no plan b for God's plan? If God decided to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah there was nothing to be done. There was never gonna be 10 righteous men there because there wasn't even one. Lot already showed us how little he cared for his daughters so it's no surprise that the husbands he chose for them weren't suitable husbands. Sure they had money, property, no wife or kids, but they didn't have God. That should've been the first thing on the list of husband criteria "does he know God?" "Is he faithful to the Word?" Can he be the head of her life as Christ is the Head of the church?" He didn't ask because he didn't care. Lot was very much of the world therefore whatever he touched or produced would be of this world. How many know we naturally nurture our own nature?*

So before you continue to nurture what God called you to sacrifice, test it against the Word of God. Does this serve God? How does this trait glorify God? How does my nature edify the church?

As the sun rises, the angels grab the hands of Lot, his wife, the hands of his daughters and leads them out of the city (saying don't look back) Genesis 19:15-17 CSB

[15] At daybreak the angels urged Lot on: "Get up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city." [16] But he hesitated. Because of the Lord's compassion for him, the men grabbed his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters. They brought him out and left him outside the city. [17] As soon as the angels got them outside, one of them said, "Run for your lives! Don't look back and don't stop anywhere on the plain! Run to the mountains, or you will be swept away!"

Lot negotiates with Angels to go to a small village instead of the Mountains Genesis 19:18-23 EASY

[18] But Lot said, 'No! Please, my lords, I cannot do that! [19] I am your humble servant and you have been very kind to me. You have saved my life. But I cannot run away into the mountains. If

I try to do that, this punishment will catch me before I reach there. Then I will surely die. [20] Look! See that town over there. It is near and I can run to it safely. And it is a small town. So please let me run there. You can see that it is only a small place. If I go there, I will stay alive.'[21] The angel said to Lot, 'I will let you do what you have asked. I will not destroy that town. [22] But run there quickly. I cannot do anything until you arrive in the town.' (The name of the town became 'Zoar', because it was small.)[23] Lot reached Zoar at the time when the sun was rising that morning.

Speaker Notes: *So here we see Lot's heart. Lot doesn't have faith. He believes in God because he was raised in church but he doesn't believe God because He's never trusted Him to be His Lord and Savior. Lot was his own master. He made his own destiny. He was self-righteous, not righteous in God's eye. God had to do things Lot's way for him to trust Him or believe Him. It wasn't the same faith of his uncle Abraham, because Abraham never hesitated to do what God said. He struggled with what God didn't say. Lot on the other hand suffers from unbelief. But because our God had compassion, the angels insisted and grabbed his daughters and wife's hands leading them all to safety.*

Lot battles unbelief again when the angels tell them to Run for your lives! Don't look back and don't stop anywhere on the plain! Run to the mountains, or you will be swept away! Lot says I can't because we won't make it. This is the kind of unbelief that bears the fruit of fear. This isn't the "I don't believe you" kind of unbelief, this is the "I believe you but don't have the faith to trust you" kind. This is the most dangerous kind of unbelief, because it produces fruit. It produces a lineage that doesn't trust God, it produces decisions that don't trust God, it produces a life that doesn't trust God, but worse, it believes the Father of Lies more than The Word of God. So God can be speaking to you, telling you exactly what will happen and how you will survive, but you'll believe the enemy instead.

The lies start to sound like the voice of God "I will surely die". The angels don't fight with him because they trust the God that ordered them to save Lot's life. We know this because they say I cannot do anything until you arrive in the town. Lot was already saved, God had already orchestrated his savings plan, God had already commanded His angels to save him and not do anything until he was safe. It was Lot who didn't trust God. So Lot escapes to a small town in the middle of the evil cities just as the sun begins to rise.

God rains lava from heaven and Lot's wife is behind him when she looks back and becomes a pillar of salt. Genesis 19:24-26 AMP

[24] Then the Lord rained down brimstone (flaming sulfur) and fire on Sodom and on Gomorrah from the Lord out of heaven, [25] and He overthrew (demolished, ended) those cities, and the entire valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and whatever grew on the ground. [26] But Lot's wife, from behind him, [foolishly, longingly] looked [back toward Sodom in an act of disobedience], and she became a pillar of salt.

Speaker Notes: *How many know there is nothing back there? There is nothing in your past remaining for you to dwell on. Everything God has for you is tied to your present obedience so*

that it can lead you to a better future. How many know your latter days are and will be better than your former days?

*It's already written, you just have to be obedient to be led into the promise of the latter days. The end of days is written too **Luke 17:28-34 CEV** teaches how we must learn from the story of Lot and why. Its says*

[28] When Lot lived, people were also eating and drinking. They were buying, selling, planting, and building. [29] But on the very day Lot left Sodom, fiery flames poured down from the sky and killed everyone. [30] The same will happen on the day when the Son of Man appears. [31] At that time no one on a rooftop should go down into the house to get anything. No one in a field should go back to the house for anything. [32] Remember what happened to Lot's wife. [33] People who try to save their lives will lose them, and those who lose their lives will save them. [34] On that night two people will be sleeping in the same bed, but only one will be taken. The other will be left.

God has shown us in a multitude of ways that our futures with Him are tied to our obedience. We never want to be like Lot's wife, but how many know there is an ex you just talked to. There is a job you've outgrown but pays the bills, there is something from your past that you wanted, but couldn't quite get it the way you wanted it, so you insist. But how many know there is a difference in insisting on our desire and insisting on God. They are not the same and the results don't look the same. But you can only see the difference when you look back. When you look back you see how your plans were harmful to your life but God's plan was saving your life. When you look it over, you see how you could've done it better, you even see what was wrong with your plan, so we naturally look back. But what if I told you that you could do it perfectly the first time, no do-overs or course correcting necessary, all you have to do is be obedient to God and He will do it. So how do we lose our lives to save it? Don't look back and be obedient!

References: [Luke 17:32]

(Abraham returns to the place where God revealed His plans to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah) Genesis 19:27-29 NLT

[27] Abraham got up early that morning and hurried out to the place where he had stood in the Lord's presence. [28] He looked out across the plain toward Sodom and Gomorrah and watched as columns of smoke rose from the cities like smoke from a furnace.[29] But God had listened to Abraham's request and kept Lot safe, removing him from the disaster that engulfed the cities on the plain.

Speaker Notes: *Abraham was anxious and rightfully so, I already told you I would've at least thought about sending a raven to my phew. Abraham however, ran back to the place where he stood in the presence of God. He had already taken his battle of fear and uncertainty to God and all that remained was to see what God decided.*

Let's dig in shall we? Lot's last words were if 10 righteous men were found, God would spare the whole city, so Abraham seeing the smoke like a furnace emanating from a city by the sea, probably thought God couldn't find 10 so the all in the city were horrifically killed. He probably

felt the quiver in his chin, and a burn in his heart, a shredding of his reality, as he realized His first love was killed by the God he served. Mm...that hurts me.

This is why it is imperative to be insistent on God. Sometimes it looks like God's plans are the cause of hurt and there are still times when God's plans are actually the source of your hurt. The faith of Abraham is what God requires regardless. It's the faith that says "though they slay me, I will trust Him!" I trust God is good. That is all the trust we need to build our foundation firmly in faith. That's not to discount the mustard seed, because Jesus said it was enough to move mountains, but if you want that concrete, steel, kind of faith, then we can just trust God to be good. He doesn't have to deliver a preferred outcome, or the ideal conditions, He is just Good, so whatever He does or doesn't do, is more than enough. Whatever he takes wasn't for you, whatever He chooses is best, and whatever He says is true, for we serve El Olam, The Everlasting God.

So while God didn't find the 10 men he required to save the entire city, God had one faithful servant that He would step out of heaven for. He had one faithful servant that had His heart. He had one faithful servant that trusted Him to be a Righteous God so for the sake of that one faithful servant, God changed the negotiations and gave Abraham what he didn't dare ask for. God interceded on his behalf and saved his beloved Lot.

Genesis: Chapter 19 continued (The offspring of unbelief)

Lot is afraid of the people in Zoar so he heads to the mountains Genesis 19:30-32 NLT

[30] Afterward Lot left Zoar because he was afraid of the people there, and he went to live in a cave in the mountains with his two daughters. [31] One day the older daughter said to her sister, "There are no men left anywhere in this entire area, so we can't get married like everyone else. And our father will soon be too old to have children. [32] Come, let's get him drunk with wine, and then we will have sex with him. That way we will preserve our family line through our father."

Lot's daughters get him drunk in a cave in the mountains Genesis 19:33-35 NLT

[33] So that night they got him drunk with wine, and the older daughter went in and had intercourse with her father. He was unaware of her lying down or getting up again. [34] The next morning the older daughter said to her younger sister, "I had sex with our father last night. Let's get him drunk with wine again tonight, and you go in and have sex with him. That way we will preserve our family line through our father." [35] So that night they got him drunk with wine again, and the younger daughter went in and had intercourse with him. As before, he was unaware of her lying down or getting up again.

Lot's daughters each have sons Genesis 19:36-38 NLT

[36] As a result, both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their own father. [37] When the older daughter gave birth to a son, she named him Moab. He became the ancestor of the nation now known as the Moabites. [38] When the younger daughter gave birth to a son, she named him Ben-ammi. He became the ancestor of the nation now known as the Ammonites.

Speaker Notes: *Now we see why God told Abraham to leave his relatives, God wanted to separate him from fear so he could build a nation of faith. A lineage of believers who would follow God and obey. So God looks on the heart of man. He peers into the posture of our heart,*

looking beyond our actions and reviewing our intentions. How many know our intentions are either aligned with the Word of God or they're not. Either we will serve God fearlessly or we will walk timidly without Him. So when God reviewed Lot's heart, He knew that his fear would lead to him serving his own interest and that would lead to the lineage of children of unbelief.

When we studied Genesis Chapter 15, God visited Abram in a vision. He told him "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." He was speaking to the fear in his heart that he wouldn't have his own descendants. So God assured him that he would have more descendants than he could number but his fear still led to Ishmael but it didn't lead to unbelief or disobedience. How many know fear is dangerous?

And how many know that holding on to past fear holds the power to harm our future? So here we have an uncle that loves his nephew, but we have 2 different lineages being born, we have the children of faith and the children of fear. So Lot's fear led to his unbelief and he produced daughters that nurtured that fear and unbelief. They thought their futures were based on their present circumstance so they allowed that lie to breed fear, and that fear to breed unbelief, and once their faith in God was nonexistent, the enemy would use them to serve his purpose by perverting the will of God. So one became the mother of the incestuous Ammonites and the other became the mother of the incestuous Moabites.

But how many know that we serve a mighty merciful God? God's promise was delivered through the lineage of Abraham but God's promise was extended to all nations. As Christians, we are grafted onto the family tree, but had it not been for God's endless mercy, we too would've died in our sins. So we praise God for loving us beyond what we could ever deserve and we do this by giving him this day and each day, because all of it belongs to Him.

Chapter 20: (Battle of Faith)

Abraham Introduces Sarah as his sister again Genesis 20:1-2 GNT

[1] Abraham moved from Mamre to the southern part of Canaan and lived between Kadesh and Shur. Later, while he was living in Gerar, [2] he said that his wife Sarah was his sister. So King Abimelech of Gerar had Sarah brought to him.

God visits king Abimelech in a dream telling him to return Sarah to Abraham or die

Genesis 20:3-7 GNT [3] One night God appeared to him in a dream and said, "You are going to die, because you have taken this woman; she is already married." [4] But Abimelech had not come near her, and he said, "Lord, I am innocent! Would you destroy me and my people? [5] Abraham himself said that she was his sister, and she said the same thing. I did this with a clear conscience, and I have done no wrong." [6] God replied in the dream, "Yes, I know that you did it with a clear conscience; so I kept you from sinning against me and did not let you touch her. [7] But now, give the woman back to her husband. He is a prophet, and he will pray for you, so that you will not die. But if you do not give her back, I warn you that you are going to die, you and all your people."

Speaker Notes: *Now after everything that happened with Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham has left Mamre, which he called the place of God, and went to the southern part of Canaan. Abraham is still battling fear because he is still telling people that his wife is his sister. Sarah is*

no joke even at 90 she's stunning. So the King, like most men, takes notice and has her brought to him. How many know even the father of faith battled with fear?

But because of his faithfulness and obedience to God, God battled what he feared. When we trust God with our obedience, it covers our fears. Fearless as we may be, there will come a time when we all battle fear, but it is our obedience and faithfulness to God that will lead to our deliverance. You can be afraid to start the new job but if God says go and you go, he will battle what you fear. You can be afraid to put your heart out there again, but if God says love and you love, He will battle the things and people that threaten to harm you. He will remove the enemy before you even know the enemy was there. God will be your protector and your great reward just as he was with Abraham.

The King questions Abraham about why he put him in the position to sin against God and Abraham explains. Genesis 20:8-13 GNT

[8] Early the next morning Abimelech called all his officials and told them what had happened, and they were terrified. [9] Then Abimelech called Abraham and asked, "What have you done to us? What wrong have I done to you to make you bring this disaster on me and my kingdom? No one should ever do what you have done to me. [10] Why did you do it?" [11] Abraham answered, "I thought that there would be no one here who has reverence for God and that they would kill me to get my wife. [12] She really is my sister. She is the daughter of my father, but not of my mother, and I married her. [13] So when God sent me from my father's house into foreign lands, I said to her, 'You can show how loyal you are to me by telling everyone that I am your brother.'"

Abimelech gives animals, servants, and 1000 pieces of silver to Abraham and Abraham prays to God. Genesis 20:14-18 CSB

[14] Then Abimelech took flocks and herds and male and female slaves, gave them to Abraham, and returned his wife Sarah to him. [15] Abimelech said, "Look, my land is before you. Settle wherever you want." [16] And he said to Sarah, "Look, I am giving your brother one thousand pieces of silver. It is a verification of your honor to all who are with you. You are fully vindicated." [17] Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female slaves so that they could bear children, [18] for the Lord had completely closed all the wombs in Abimelech's household on account of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

Speaker Notes: *How many know we have to answer for the results of our fear? There is a cost for being fearful and there is a reward for being faithful. Following our fears will lead us to people and environments God never intended us to know. It will knock you off your faith walk so fast you won't even realize it happened. But being faithful to God, spending time with His Word, seeking Him in prayer, and being obedient to His commands will reward you even when you're fearful. Abraham may have been a little scared of His wife's beauty, but he married her anyway. He may have been afraid she couldn't have children but he was faithful. The message here is clear: faith covers fear and obedience covers all.*

I love how God covers His promise. God protected Sarah because of the promise she carried. She carried God's promise and God wouldn't let anyone be able to deny His promise. So he made everyone surrounding the King barren until he made it clear that Sarah was innocent and

did nothing wrong. She didn't commit adultery or disobey her husband, she may not have agreed with Abraham but she obeyed and her obedience was what sent God into battle on her behalf. Then it says "Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female slaves so that they could bear children". Single ladies, pray for a husband that will cover you in prayer. A man that will go to war for you in a prayer closet before he battles anything else for you. Pray for a man like Abraham whose prayer will unlock the healing of God and the blessings of heaven. Then pray for him, that God may strengthen him and cover him until you meet and long thereafter.

Genesis: Chapter 21 (The offspring of Faithfulness)

Sarah laughs as she holds her newborn son Issac Genesis 21:1-7 TPT

[1] Yahweh visited Sarah, just as he said he would, and fulfilled his promise to her. [2] And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the exact time God had promised them. [3] Abraham named his son Isaac, the miracle son, whom Sarah bore him. [4] When Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God had commanded him. [5] Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born. [6] Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." [7] And she added, "Who would ever have told Abraham that Sarah would one day nurse children! Even though Abraham is an old man, look—I have given him a son!"

Speaker Notes: *So after 25 years of following God, Sarah and Abraham are finally ready for the promise. How many know our faith and obedience to God reveals how much of His blessings we're ready to receive? God knows the plans He has for you but He also knows what is needed from you before you will be ready to receive it.*

Jeremiah 29:11-13 GNT says

[11] I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for. [12] Then you will call to me. You will come and pray to me, and I will answer you. [13] You will seek me, and you will find me because you will seek me with all your heart.

He will know you're ready by how often you come to Him in prayer, How diligently you seek Him, and how faithful and obedient you are to His will. God will only give you what you have the capacity to receive. So instead of preparing for what we don't want, why not prepare as though you believe the plans God has for you. Prepare as though you know prosperity is right around the corner and disaster is not. How many know when you prepare for disaster, it comes? God will give you what you're prepared to receive. So when you waste your time building walls to protect you, you're actually building a tower that will prevent love from coming in and going out.

Only God is equipped to protect you so put your trust in Him and he will deliver His plans. If you don't choose to let God have His way, then you will get the disaster that you need to make you fearless. How many know sometimes we have to go through it because we don't believe we can avoid it? But if we trust God, and trust God's timing, and trust God's plan, we will avoid the disasters and pitfalls. Sarah and Abraham desperately wanted children but they weren't prepared to receive the plan, so God gave them what they believed Him for, laughter. He was

teaching them and teaching us through them, that it doesn't matter what it looks like, nothing is too hard for God. So trust Him alone to fulfill His plan and do your absolute best to stay out of His way by trying to help Him do it.

Ishmael picks on baby Issac and Sarah gets upset telling Abraham "Get rid of them"

Genesis 21:8-11 TPT

[8] Isaac grew and was weaned; and on the day Sarah weaned him, Abraham prepared a great feast. [9] But Sarah noticed the son of Hagar, the Egyptian, was mocking her son Isaac. [10] So she said to Abraham, "Get rid of this slave woman and her son. Banish them, for the son of that slave woman must not become a coheir with my son Isaac!" [11] Abraham was very upset over Sarah's demand, for Ishmael was his son too.

Speaker Notes: *So now Abraham is living with the promise and the fear. Isaac is the promised child that God planned all along for Abraham. Ishmael is the child made in fear. It was the fear that led Abram to sleep with Hagar, fear that God couldn't do what He said he would without a little help. Now the fear is laughing at the promise. Ishmael was probably over there calling his baby brother a dust bunny and Sarah wasn't having it.*

She is now living in the fullness of her promise and she will not allow anyone or anything to mock it or ridicule it. So she tells Abraham "get rid of this slave woman and her son". She reduced Hagar so bad you would've forgotten that it was her idea that led to Ishmael. It was her unbelief that led to the mockery of the promise but now it is Abraham that must live with the lie that he allowed to enter His marriage. Sure Sarah can easily say get rid of the slave woman and her son, but that's Abraham's first born. And while God allowed it, Ishmael was not God's plan. So now Abraham is at the same crossroads we find ourselves in. Our plans vs God's plan, it's easy when we're aligned with the will of God. But what happens when our plans are at odds?

Do you choose God above your own desire? Above your own satisfaction? Above your own ideas of righteousness?

Abraham banishes Hagar and Ishmael after speaking with God Genesis 21:12-13 TPT

[12] God spoke to Abraham, "Don't be distressed over the slave woman and her son. Listen to every word Sarah says to you, and do it, for it will be through Isaac your promise of descendants will be fulfilled. [13] Rest assured, I will make the son of your slave woman into a nation too, because he is your son."

Speaker Notes: *How many know our ideas of righteousness are short-sighted? We have a limited capacity to determine what is best. We can only lean on our limited understanding, logic, and emotions. But God is an omnipotent God. He is all places all times so when He gives counsel He can consider what we can't. He can see the obstacles and faults in our logic even when we can't. God had to talk to Abraham because there was no way his logic and understanding was going to ever think it was a good idea to banish His son. As a father, and a faithful one, it was impossible for him to come to that conclusion on his own.*

But God could see what Abraham couldn't. He knew that fear and faith can't live together without each contaminating the purpose of the other. He also knew that by Jewish standards Ishmael, now 14, is a man. It's time for him to find a wife and leave his mother's and father's house just like God spoke it. But our emotions and our logic sometimes will not allow us to see what is so evident to God. That is why we must study His Word so that we can know what His plans are and how we are to walk in alignment with Him. God made sure He didn't deliver the promised child until the fear was old enough to grow up and leave. And because of His love for Abraham, he blessed Ishmael as well and assured Abraham he would be just fine. Our merciful God considers us more than we will ever know and for this we praise him.

Hagar crying sits away from teenage Issac dying from thirst in the desert Genesis 21:14-16 TPT

[14] Abraham rose up early the next morning, bundled up some food and a skin of water, and strapped them to Hagar's shoulders. Then he gave her his son and sent them away. So, Hagar and her son Ishmael departed and wandered off into the wilderness of Beersheba. [15] When the water was gone, she grew desperate, so she left her son under a bush. [16] Then she walked about the distance of a bowshot and sat down, for she thought, "I can't bear to watch my son die." As she sat nearby, she broke into tears and sobbed uncontrollably.

A well appears in the desert, in the reflection of the water, the future of Ishmael marrying an Egyptian woman is shown. Genesis 21:17-21 TPT

[17] And God heard the voice of the boy. The angel of God called out to Hagar from the heavenly realm and said, "What's the matter, Hagar? Don't be afraid, for God has heard the voice of your son crying as he lies there. [18] Get up! Help the boy up and hold him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation." [19] Then God opened her eyes to reveal a well of water. She went over to the well and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a long, cool drink. [20] God was with Ishmael as he grew up in the wilderness of Paran. He became an expert archer, [21] and his mother, Hagar, arranged a marriage for him with an Egyptian woman.

Speaker Notes: *So God did everything that He said He would do and all things worked together for His good purpose. How many know what's good for God is best for us? That is why we must prioritize the goodness of God. We must make the conscious decision to choose God. Our faith should mirror our understanding of who God is. God is good and only God is good, so we trust him fully adding nothing and needing nothing. God had shown Hagar the desert before. Last time she was there she ran away because Sarai was being mid-evil and the angel of the Lord told her to go back and submit. This time she was banished there by the only man she loved and the only family she knew.*

God prepared her for what she wasn't prepared for when she ran away. He was teaching her to submit, He was putting her under the care of His cherished servant and introducing himself as her God too, El Roi. So now, she doesn't even have to ask, God heard the cry of her son directly and made a way. It is now their time in the wilderness, a season that all of God's chosen people have to endure, but not before our merciful God prepares us for it.

Abimelech and the leader of His Army talks with Abraham Genesis 21:22-24 NLT

[22] About this time, Abimelech came with Phicol, his army commander, to visit Abraham. "God is obviously with you, helping you in everything you do," Abimelech said. [23] "Swear to me in God's name that you will never deceive me, my children, or any of my descendants. I have been loyal to you, so now swear that you will be loyal to me and to this country where you are living as a foreigner." [24] Abraham replied, "Yes, I swear to it!"

Abraham complains about the King's servants stealing his well. Genesis 21:25-29 NLT

[25] Then Abraham complained to Abimelech about a well that Abimelech's servants had taken by force from Abraham's servants. [26] "This is the first I've heard of it," Abimelech answered. "I have no idea who is responsible. You have never complained about this before." [27] Abraham then gave some of his sheep, goats, and cattle to Abimelech, and they made a treaty. [28] But Abraham also took seven additional female lambs and set them off by themselves. [29] Abimelech asked, "Why have you set these seven apart from the others?"

Abraham gives 7 lambs to Abimelech and worships God Genesis 21:30-34 NLT

[30] Abraham replied, "Please accept these seven lambs to show your agreement that I dug this well." [31] Then he named the place Beersheba (which means "well of the oath"), because that was where they had sworn the oath. [32] After making their covenant at Beersheba, Abimelech left with Phicol, the commander of his army, and they returned home to the land of the Philistines. [33] Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he worshiped the Lord, the Eternal God. [34] And Abraham lived as a foreigner in Philistine country for a long time.

Speaker Notes: *When God is the source of your life, Kings will come to seek your counsel and favor. Despite your past mistakes or indiscretions, it is God that redeems you. Abimelech is the king that Abraham told the half-truth too and caused God to curse his entire household. Abraham said he did it because he didn't believe there could be a people that fear God. But how many know that is why God is using you? How many know the chosen are chosen to serve, not be served. Our role as the children of God, is to display the goodness of God in our actions, behavior, thoughts, and words. We are to love one another fearlessly so that God's goodness will become known to those who once didn't believe.*

He didn't call us to get those with rock solid faith, He called us to get those who don't know His face. So they can see what Abimelech saw when he said "God is obviously with you, helping you in everything you do". God wants everyone to experience His goodness through your obedience. God wants to use you so that by your faithfulness and integrity they will come to know Him who sent you. Sometimes that means we're at a job we don't like, or a city that we've outgrown, and sometimes it means you allowed someone to hurt you, steal from you and not seek your own vengeance like Abraham did.

He never even mentioned what Abimelech servants stole, but when the time was right, God restored what was taken. So let's trust God to redeem and restore us so we can walk in alignment with His will and not be hindered by fear, anger, vengeance, unbelief or the lies that start the entire path of destruction. Father God, lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. And the women of God said "Amen".

Homework Assignment: This week, we will fast together. We will find some time to meditate on the word instead of what we would usually do at that time. We can fast from food, social media, television or whatever you feel called to fast from. Next week we'll discuss how it helped, the outcomes, and revelations we received.

Extra Credit Assignment: Find the supporting scriptures for the underlined quotes from the opening. This will help you build your arsenal to fight against the lies of the enemy.

Thank you again for journeying with me on our faith walk! I love you infinitely! 😊

Candice.