

## Life of Abraham: Temptation 2.0

**Key Scriptures:** Genesis 20:1-18 And Abraham journeyed from there to the South, and dwelt between Kadesh and Shur, and stayed in Gerar. <sup>2</sup> Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. <sup>3</sup> But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, "Indeed you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife." <sup>4</sup> But Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, will You slay a righteous nation also?" <sup>5</sup> "Did he not say to me, 'She is my sister'?" And she, even she herself said, "He is my brother." In the integrity of my heart and innocence of my hands I have done this." <sup>6</sup> And God said to him in a dream, "Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her." <sup>7</sup> "Now therefore, restore the man's wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours." <sup>8</sup> So Abimelech rose early in the morning, called all his servants, and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were very much afraid. <sup>9</sup> And Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? How have I offended you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done deeds to me that ought not to be done." <sup>10</sup> Then Abimelech said to Abraham, "What did you have in view, that you have done this thing?" <sup>11</sup> And Abraham said, "Because I thought, surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will kill me on account of my wife." <sup>12</sup> "But indeed she is truly my sister. She is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife." <sup>13</sup> "And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said to her, 'This is your kindness that you should do for me: in every place, wherever we go, say of me, "He is my brother.'" <sup>14</sup> Then Abimelech took sheep, oxen, and male and female servants, and gave them to Abraham; and he restored Sarah his wife to him. <sup>15</sup> And Abimelech said, "See, my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you." <sup>16</sup> Then to Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver; indeed this vindicates you before all who are with you and before everybody." Thus she was rebuked. <sup>17</sup> So Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants. Then they bore children; <sup>18</sup> for the LORD had closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

**Key Point:** God's promises depend upon His faithfulness. Yet how you live matters: you are the only Bible some people will ever read.

## TALK IT OVER

**Start talking:** Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever have to retake a test? A class? In the lessons God is trying to teach you, what "class" have you had to take over at least once?

**Reflect, Think, & Share:** Read through the key scriptures and share any observations or questions with the group.

- What similarities do you notice between Abraham's actions in this chapter and his earlier deception in Gen 12:11-20? What does this repetition reveal about spiritual growth?
- What was wrong with Abraham and Sarah saying they were brother/sister? What problems did this cause?
- Why do you think Abraham was still afraid 25 years later even after all God's promises and even speaking with God in person? What does this teach us about human nature and recurring sin patterns?
- How does Abimelech's plea for his nation in v. 4 "Lord will you slay a righteous nation also" compare with Abraham's prayer for mercy on Sodom & Gomorrah if there are 10 righteous in the city? (Gen 18:23-32)
- What does this chapter teach us about how fear can influence our decisions and distort our faith?
- Abimelech knew two things about Abraham: That he deceived him, and he was a prophet. How does this story teach us the truth behind 2 Corinthians 3:2-3?
- How does this passage demonstrate that God's promises depend on His faithfulness rather than human perfection?

**Start doing:** What is one area of your life where you are tempted to act out of fear instead of trust—and what would trusting God look like there this week?

**Prayer:** Do you have any specific decisions or areas of life where you could use prayer from others asking God to guide you? If you feel comfortable, share these issues with your study group so that they can pray with you and for you.

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