

**OCF Small Groups:** *passionately pursuing God, healthy relationships with each other, and people who don't know Jesus, as part of a Gospel Community.*

## **Genesis 20 - 21**

(Sunday, November 29)

1.
  - a. What is one of the best decisions you have made in life? What was the worst decision?
  - b. When have you repeated the same mistake twice?
  
2. Abraham makes the same mistake twice (12: 10-20 and 20: 1-13). He tells a half-truth to protect himself. Try to remember the last time you told a half-truth to protect yourself.
  - a. What is a half-truth? Is it sin? Why or why not?
  - b. Is it okay to tell a half-truth to protect yourself? Why or why not?
  
3.
  - a. Was it acceptable for a godly man to deceive pagans because they did not fear God (see 20: 11)? Why or why not?
  - b. How does this truth apply to our behavior among unbelievers?
  
4.
  - a. Who in your life is, or has been, an "Abimelech"—one who bravely sets you straight?
  - b. Where might God be calling you to be an Abimelech?
  
5. How is Isaac's birth similar to the birth of Jesus?

6. Recall what God promised in 15: 1 and what Abimelek observes in 21: 1-7; 22. In the past, waiting wasn't an option— it was the only choice.
  - a. What are the advantages of a world that moves as fast as ours does today over the days gone by when everything required waiting? What are the disadvantages?
  - b. What are some of the things you don't like to wait on God for?
  - c. When have you experienced the benefit of waiting on God to move?
  
7. In chapter 21, Abraham was required to trust God with the welfare of his son Ishmael.
  - a. Why is it sometimes difficult for parents to trust God when it comes to their children?
  - b. What fears do we have when it comes to trusting God with those we love?
  
8. Paul contrasts Sarah and Hagar, Isaac and Ishmael to represent the relationship between law and grace (see Galatians 4: 21-31).
  - a. How is legalism a form of slavery? How does grace set us free?
  - b. Do you tend to embrace legalism or grace more readily? Explain.
  - c. How have you seen legalism and grace played out in your life?

## **SCRIPTURE MEDITATION** Genesis 21: 17

And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is.

## **PRAY**

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving us hope in this life through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Help me to remember that you are in control. Teach to fear not, because you see me where I am, and you hear me. Help me to always place my hope in you no matter the circumstances – in Jesus name I pray, AMEN.