



Growth Group Discussion Guide

Passage: Genesis 20:1-18

Introduction: In this passage Abraham lies to Abimelech about his relationship to Sarah. In ignorance Abimelech takes Sarah to be his wife. Yet before Abimelech sins the LORD visits him in a dream and orders Sarah to be returned to Abraham. Abimelech returns Sarah to Abraham and admonishes Abraham for his sin. Ultimately this passage challenges us to consider the gracious gift of the fear of the LORD.



Into the Word

Consider verses 10-13. What motivated Abraham to lie about his relationship to Sarah? How did Abraham's sin affect Sarah? How did it affect Abimelech and his household?

Verse 8 tells us that Abimelech and his men were terrified. Why were Abimelech and his men terrified? How did Abimelech's fear differ from Abraham's?

How is God gracious in this passage? To Abraham? To Sarah? To Abimelech? How is the fear of God a gift in this passage?

Isaiah 11:1-3 tells us that Christ, unlike Abraham, delighted in the fear of the LORD. What can we learn about the fear of the LORD from the life of Christ?



Into the Heart

Reflect on a time when you let the fear of man drive your decisions. What were the consequences of this? How would you have approached this situation differently had you feared the LORD and not your circumstances?

Puritan writer John Bunyan wrote, "the deepest and most powerful change of heart toward a true fear of God comes at the foot of the cross, where our sin and God's judgment and grace are supremely revealed". How can we pursue this change in our hearts?



Into the World

Abraham's fear of man drove him to sin against the very people he was called to bless. Who are the people that God has placed in your life to bless? How are your worldly fears keeping you from being a blessing in their lives?

How might a proper fear of the LORD enable you to be a blessing to those around you?
Consider: Isaiah 8:12-13