

January 22 - Week 2 – The Old Testament

Week 2: Genesis 16-30

Small Group Warm Up Question:

Looking back at the past year, what was one of your favorite family memories? What sort of memories do you want to make in the year ahead?

1. What were the consequences of Abram (Abraham) and Sarai (Sarah) not waiting for God's timing and plan (Genesis 16 & 17)? Can you think of a time in your life when you doubted God's goodness? Questioned His plans? Distrusted God's timing? Took matters into your own hands? What can be the consequences when we don't wait for the Lord?
2. Isaac's name literally means "he laughs." Likely this both reflects his parents' doubt of God's promise (they laughed when God told them a 100-year-old man and 90-year-old woman would have a child together) and also God's joyous blessing in Isaac (Genesis 21:6 "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me."). Is there any particular meaning to your name or your children's names? How can our last name (family/surname) also be significant?
3. The story of Sodom and Gomorrah are given to us to because "by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly" (2 Peter 2:6). Since the people of "Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities... indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire" they now "serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire" (Jude 7). Why is sexual sin so dangerous? Why is it evidence of eternal lostness? Why does God speak so clearly and repeatedly about sexual sin? Why does God warn specifically about homosexuality? (Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 20:13, Matthew 5:27-32, Romans 1:26-28, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Galatians 5:19-21, 1 Timothy 1:9-11, Revelation 21:8)
4. Similar to how Abraham showed cowardice with Abimelech about Sarah being his wife (Genesis 20), Isaac was also afraid and lied about Rebekah being his wife (Genesis 26). Why do you think sinful patterns are often repeated among family members and across generations? Have you seen this happen within your own families? How can we learn from this for our own lives? How can we learn from this to protect the future generations of our own families?
5. When Abimelech is lied to about Abraham's wife Sarah, God warns Abimelech in a dream that he will suffer death since he took a married woman into his house (Genesis 20). Later when a similar experience happens with Isaac's wife Rebekah, Abimelech announces the death penalty for anyone who "molests this man or his wife" (Genesis 26:11). What does this show us about the significance of marriage? About how ignorance is not an excuse? Read Hebrews 13:4. How does this apply today? Eternally?

More questions @ www.southfork.church/discussion-guide

www.TrustworthyWord.com

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January 21, 2024

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Men's Sunday

1 Corinthians 16:13–14 “Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.” (ESV)

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This Next Week's Old Testament Reading Plan:

Week 3: Genesis 31-45

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- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** www.southfork.church/jesus
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