

Genesis 20-21 – God is Faithful February 23, 2020 Discussion Notes

Everyone is encouraged to bring a Bible

(Phone apps are good for reading together in the same translation. Study Bibles give help with interpretation.)



GOD IS FAITHFUL...

- WHEN WE ARE FEARFUL
(SO BE PURPOSEFUL)
- WHEN WE ARE DOUBTFUL
(SO BE JOYFUL)
- WHEN WE ARE SINFUL
(SO BE WORSHIPFUL)

Questions:

1. Have you ever owned a car that was unreliable? What was that like? Share a story or two.
2. Have you ever had to work with someone who was undependable? What was that like?
3. How significant is it to us that God is completely dependable (faithful)?
4. What do you remember about each of the main points of the sermon? (seen above). Discuss what stood out to you. Do you have any questions to bring up?
5. Read Galatians 4:21-31 (Paul is reminding the Galatian Christians to rely on faith instead of law, even if they are persecuted as a result. He uses the story of Isaac and Ishmael in Genesis 21 as a metaphor to make his point)
 - a) What was the difference in status between Abraham's two sons?
 - b) How were the Galatians Christians like Isaac (the child of promise)?
 - c) What does Hagar represent?
 - d) Who does Ishmael represent?
 - e) In what ways do Christians try to impose extra-biblical standards on one another?
 - f) Which of your own rules or personal standards are you tempted to require of others?
 - g) How does the new birth in Christ give us freedom?
6. Read 1 Samuel 13:5-14 (Saul has just become Israel's first king. He immediately makes a big mistake)
 - a) What circumstance prompted Saul to go ahead with the burnt offering?
 - b) Why was this so wrong? (see 1 Samuel 10:8-10 and 1 Samuel 13:13)
 - c) What core issue(s) do you think led to Saul's disobedience? (see v. 14)
 - d) What were the consequences of Saul's disobedience?
 - e) Do you sometimes find it difficult to wait on God? Why do you think that is?
 - f) What can you learn about waiting on God from the stories of Abraham and Saul?
7. Read Psalm 27:13-14
 - a) What is David confident about? Why do you think he was confident of this?
 - b) Are there areas in your life in which you have begun to doubt that God will ever come through? Share with each other what you're waiting for.
 - c) What are some practical ways that we can obey the instructions in v. 14?
8. Now spend some time praying for each other. Pray that you would each fully trust in God's faithfulness. Pray that you would have patience to wait on God. And pray for miraculous breakthroughs.