

## Genesis 20:1-18 & 21:22-34 (NIV)

*20:1 Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar, 2 and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." Then Abimelek king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her.*

*3 But God came to Abimelek in a dream one night and said to him, "You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman." 4 Now Abimelek had not gone near her, so he said, "Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation? 5 Did he not say to me, 'She is my sister,' and didn't she also say, 'He is my brother'? I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands."*

*6 Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against me. That is why I did not let you touch her. 7 Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all who belong to you will die."*

*8 Early the next morning Abimelek summoned all his officials, and when he told them all that had happened, they were very much afraid. 9 Then Abimelek called Abraham in and said, "What have you done to us? How have I wronged you that you have brought such great guilt upon me and my kingdom? You have done things to me that should never be done." 10 And Abimelek asked Abraham, "What was your reason for doing this?"*

*11 Abraham replied, "I said to myself, 'There is surely no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.' 12 Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not of my mother; and she became my wife. 13 And when God had me wander from my father's household, I said to her, 'This is how you can show your love to me: Everywhere we go, say of me, "He is my brother."'"*

*14 Then Abimelek brought sheep and cattle and male and female slaves and gave them to Abraham, and he returned Sarah his wife to him. 15 And Abimelek said, "My land is before you; live wherever you like." 16 To Sarah he said, "I am giving your brother a thousand shekels[a] of silver. This is to cover the offense against you before all who are with you; you are completely vindicated."*

*17 Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelek, his wife and his female slaves so they could have children again, 18 for the Lord had kept all the women in Abimelek's household from conceiving because of Abraham's wife Sarah.*

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*21:22 At that time Abimelek and Phicol the commander of his forces said to Abraham, "God is with you in everything you do. 23 Now swear to me here before God that you will not deal falsely with me or my children or my descendants. Show to me and the country where you now reside as a foreigner the same kindness I have shown to you."*

*24 Abraham said, "I swear it." 25 Then Abraham complained to Abimelek about a well of water that Abimelek's servants had seized. 26 But Abimelek said, "I don't know who has done this. You did not tell me, and I heard about it only today."*

*27 So Abraham brought sheep and cattle and gave them to Abimelek, and the two men made a treaty. 28 Abraham set apart seven ewe lambs from the flock, 29 and Abimelek asked Abraham, "What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs you have set apart by themselves?"*

*30 He replied, "Accept these seven lambs from my hand as a witness that I dug this well." 31 So that place was called Beersheba,[a] because the two men swore an oath there. 32 After the treaty had been made at Beersheba, Abimelek and Phicol the commander of his forces returned to the land of the Philistines. 33 Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the Lord, the Eternal God. 34 And Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines for a long time.*

# FATHER ABRAHAM

First Presbyterian Church of Bakersfield  
2026 April-June Sermon Series Study Guide

## Abraham and Abimelek

### OPEN

- What, for you, has been a blessing from God this last week?

### STUDY

- **Read Genesis 20:1-18.** What does Abraham do and why? How do his actions affect those around him?
- What do you notice about Abimelek's interaction and response to God? Compare/contrast his actions and motivations to Abraham's.
- What do we know about Sarah from these verses? Keeping in mind that this is the second time this has happened to her (see Gen. 12:10-20), what might it have been like for her to be treated the way she was?
- What does this passage show about God's care and concern for each of these three main characters?
- How have you seen God care for you in the midst of fearful situations?
- **Read Genesis 21:22-34.** What are the two different aspects of the treaty being made here? [NOTE: Exchanging livestock acted as both a peace offering and visible proof of a contractual agreement, a common practice in the ancient Near East.]
- How is the agreement good for both parties involved?
- What does Abraham do in response to God's protection and blessings? (verses 33-34)
- How do we see God protecting and fulfilling his promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:2-3) in today's passage?

### PRAY

- In prayer together, ask God to remind you of his purposes, protection or promises in an area of need right now.