

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN OUR FAITHLESSNESS

GENESIS 20:1-18; 21:22-34

Sunday, October 27, 2024 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

↑ When we **RELAPSE** into old sins,

fear, habit, temptation, flesh... 20:1-2 Galatians 5:17; James 1:14-15; Romans 7:15ff

faithlessness 20:11-13 Hebrews 3:12-13

God's love and grace are **STEADFAST**

his faithfulness 2 Timothy 2:13

God intervenes 20:3-7 1 Corinthians 10:13; Romans 8:28ff

↓ and his **SOVEREIGNTY** keeps us.

promise Gen. 3:15; 12:3; Psalm 103; Micah 7:18-19

provision: past, present, future Hebrews 8:12; 10:12-14; Colossians 2:13-14; 1 John 1:7; Romans 8:1-2ff; Eph. 2:14



Text us at **833-271-8805**.
— Text **APP** to get our app.

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "**Pray for...**" followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, here's a *random* question to discuss and break the ice as you get going. Have everyone answer:

What's the weirdest thing (habit, trait, etc.) you picked up from your family?

Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

- One of the most frustrating aspects of the Christian life is our continual struggle with sin—especially our tendency to repeat sins for which we've already been forgiven. Even though we know the right thing to do, we often fall into old habits when we face difficult circumstances, betraying our lack of faith. Even Abraham doubted, yet God reaffirmed his covenant despite Abraham's repeated sin in Gen. 20 to reaffirm his covenant faithfulness—despite Abraham's faithlessness. **Read Genesis 20:1-18 and 21:22-34.**
- Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you? Discuss it with your group before moving on.*
- Abraham is remembered as a man of faith, but he still had tons of setbacks. In Genesis 20:2 we see him calling his wife, Sarah, his sister again! Compare the events of **Genesis 20** with those of **Genesis 12:10-20** that took place 25 years earlier in Abraham's life. What was similar? What was different? What had changed in Abraham's life? What hadn't?
- After reflecting on Abraham's experience, think about your own experience and discuss the following questions. (*Group Leaders: Everyone will probably need some time to think through these questions before having an answer. Resist the temptation to rush through them and/or fill the silence!*)
 - Recall a time in your life when God's faithfulness contrasted your faithlessness...
 - What did your experience of God's continued faithfulness teach you about his character?
 - How did it inspire you to be more confident in your faith?



BIBLICAL **FAITH** IS...

believing God's Word

and **acting** upon it

no matter how I feel

because **God promises** a good result.

(—and he keeps all his promises!)

WELCOME TO WAWASEE!

OUR MISSION We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

OUR OUTCOMES This is who we hope you grow to become at Wawasee Bible...

If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...

- 1 | **Receiving From God.** Am I reading the Word regularly? When am I gathering to hear the Word taught? What fruit of the Spirit do I see growing in my life?
- 2 | **Responding To God.** How am I talking to and listening to God regularly? What are some healthy spiritual habits I'm working on (things like giving, scripture memory, repentance, rest, etc.)?
- 3 | **Receiving From Others.** Where and how am I in community/friendship with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?
- 4 | **Moving Toward Others.** How and where am I contributing to and initiating community with other Christians in our church? (Or am I only consuming?)
- 5 | **Going to those Far from God.** How am I regularly going toward those who are far from God—loving them, sharing God's Story and my own story? When was the last time I shared God's story and/or my faith story? Who is on my PEARL list?

WORD FIND IN THE WORD

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find: Psalm 103:10-14 (NLT)

Find the words **bolded** below.

10 He does not punish us for all our sins ; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve . ¹¹ For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth .	G H S S H C S K P U N C C
12 He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west . ¹³ The LORD is like a father to his children , tender and compassionate to those who fear him. ¹⁴ For he knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust .	R O K Y H H I W E A K F O E C N D T I N D U S T R M A O O E O L S D M W E A P T O W A R D F E A R N H A U E S L O R D S L I D A S N A L G R E M E M B E R S F R O I M N F R R W R S I A T V F H E A V E N S H O I H E I G H T E M G O L N L P U N I S H A O N L Y A I T W L I K E S V W E S T N P H E D V R T E P N P E G I N E M E O M D T E N I

life groups Study Guide (continued)

5. Psalm 105 alludes to various aspects of Abraham's (and others after him) sojourning, including many parallels with the story of Abraham and Abimelech. **Read Psalm 105** and note the parallels you see with **Genesis 20 and 21:22-34**.
6. After your study and discussion of Psalm 105, discuss the following questions:
 - If a chapter in the Psalms were written about God's providential care and protection in *your* life, what kinds of things would it include?
 - How would you worship God differently because of them?

Taking It Home

In times of difficulty or uncertainty, it's easy to relapse into familiar habits—even if we're aware that what we're doing is wrong. When Abraham once again found himself feeling threatened in an unfamiliar land, he fell back into an old sin characterized by fear, doubt, and dishonesty. Yet God brought Abraham through the mess he got himself into, despite his weakness, and He brought about the promise of an heir according to His word. Even when we fall short in our struggle against sin, God remains faithful to His promises. When faced with relapsing into old sins due to fear and doubt, we need to remember that Jesus' death secured the means to overcome this struggle. Because of Christ's sacrifice and the assistance of the Holy Spirit, we can trust in God's promises in the face of all opposition and uncertainty.

Discuss the following as you wrap up:

- In light of our study this week, what steps can you take in your life to keep from repeating old sins?

Prayer

As you close, take time to pray for each other. **Consider dividing into separate groups of men and women.** Feel free to share requests, just be sure each person in the group gets prayed for.

This week's Study Guide is adapted in part from Grigoni, Michael R., et al. Abraham: Following God's Promise. Lexham Press, 2012.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

Wawasee Community Bible Church

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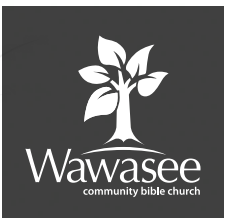
JOURNEY UNCHARTED

Sunday, October 27, 2024

PART 7

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN OUR FAITHLESSNESS

GENESIS 20:1-18; 21:22-34



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