

Genesis Part 3

Leader Guide

(NASB and ESV)

BECOMING A FRIEND OF
THE FAITHFUL GOD:
A STUDY ON ABRAHAM

Becoming a Friend of the Faithful God: A Study on Abraham
Genesis Part 3 Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

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USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out


When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

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**BECOMING A FRIEND OF THE FAITHFUL GOD: A STUDY ON ABRAHAM
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 1**

Lesson emphasis:

- Genesis 11:24–14:24
- Abram and the Lord

If you and your group studied Genesis Parts 1 and 2, begin this discussion by asking about the segments in Genesis mentioned in Day 1. Otherwise, begin with the next question.

These are the generations of:

- 2:4 The heavens and the earth
- 5:1 Adam
- 6:9 Noah
- 10:1 Shem, Ham, and Japheth
- 11:10 Shem
- 11:27 Terah

Who is the main character of Genesis 11:27–14:24?

Abram—one of Terah’s sons

GENESIS 11:27-32

Ask your group what they learned about Abram’s family.
You can use the Family Tree and the maps as visual aids for this discussion.

Abram, Nahor, and Haran were brothers—Terah’s sons.

Sarai was Abram’s wife.

Nahor married his niece, Milcah, who was Haran’s daughter.

Lot was one of Haran’s sons and Milcah’s brother.

Abram’s brother Haran died in Ur.

Sarai was barren.

Terah, Abram, Sarai, and Lot left Ur to go to Canaan.

But they only went as far as Haran and settled there, and Terah died there.

Lesson 1, Chapters 11:24–14:24

According to Acts 7:1-5, when did the Lord first appear to Abram?

When he was in Mesopotamia, Ur, before he lived in Haran

The Lord told him to depart from his relatives and come into the land He would show him.

How does Hebrews 11:8 relate to this?

The Lord called Abraham (Abram), and he obeyed because of his faith.
He obeyed the Lord by leaving his home country, not knowing where he was going.

The Lord led him by stages.

Ask your group what they noted as a possible theme for Genesis 11 on their At a Glance chart.

Abram: Ur to Haran

GENESIS 12

Verses 1-3

What are these verses about?

The Lord spoke to Abram.

NOTE: Some in your group might read in commentaries that Genesis 12:1 says, “Now the LORD had said...” as in the New King James version of the Bible. This might indicate what God had told him previously in Ur as Acts 7:3 states.

What did the Lord tell Abram to do?

Leave your country and your relatives / kindred.

Go to the land I will show you.

In Abram’s journey from Ur to Haran, some of his relatives were with him—his father and his nephew.

Some people think Abram was disobedient because Lot was with him.
Others think he was merely fulfilling a family responsibility of caring for his dead brother’s son. Terah or Abram might have taken Lot to raise when his father Haran died.

Since verse 4 says he did depart from Haran “as the Lord had spoken to him,” this appears to be a reference to God speaking to him in Haran.

It could be that God had spoken all or part of verses 1-3 to him before in Ur, and then reiterated it to him in Haran as well.

What did the Lord promise Abram in this call?

The land
A great nation
Blessing
A great name
Cursing for those who cursed Abram
All families of the earth blessed in him

What does Isaiah 51:1-2 tell about the Lord's call to Abraham?

He was one when called. Relate to Sarai being barren.

Then the Lord multiplied him so that all of Israel looked to him as their father.

God fulfilled the promise to make a great nation of him, even through his barren wife Sarah.

Discuss what impact God's word had on Abram. Also, help your group to apply this to their lives. What impact does God's Word have on them? Are they willing to follow?

Verses 4-9

What happened in these verses?

Abram obeyed God by leaving Haran at the age of 75.

He took with him Sarai and Lot and all that they had accumulated in Haran.

They went to Shechem in Canaan, modern Israel, and God appeared to him.

The Lord added something to the promise He had previously spoken to Abram.

He said He would give this land to Abram's descendants.

How did Abram respond to the Lord?

He built an altar to the Lord.

Other than his following God from Ur to Canaan, this was the first act of worship recorded from Abram's life.

He moved on from Shechem to the mountain on the east of Bethel, between Bethel and Ai. There he also built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

This was the second altar and the first time he called on the Lord's name.

Calling on the Lord's name showed recognition of Who God is.
He was faithful to lead Abram to the land He had called him to.

Then Abram went south toward the Negev.

Ask your group if they saw application for their lives. Give time to discuss it.

A life of obedience is a life of worship.

Verses 10-20

Where did Abram go? Why? What happened?

He went to Egypt because of a famine in Canaan.

He told Sarai, who was very beautiful, to say she was his sister instead of his wife.

NOTE: Genesis 17:17 states that Sarai was ten years younger than Abram, which made her 65 years old in Genesis 12, since Abram was 75. Also, Genesis 20:12 says Terah had been Sarai's father as well as Abram's, but Abram and Sarai had different mothers. It might be helpful to you as a leader to be aware of these facts because someone might bring them up in the discussion.

The Egyptians did notice that Sarai was beautiful, and she was taken into Pharaoh's house. Pharaoh treated Abram, her brother, well and gave him animals and servants for her.

Pharaoh took her for his wife, which probably means he took her physically.
The Lord protected Abram's life, and he didn't lose his wife to Pharaoh permanently.

He sent plagues on Pharaoh's house because of Sarai, and because of this he discovered she was Abram's wife and sent them away.

Spend a little time discussing what your group learned about Abram from this account.

He had some fears just like people do today, but the Lord didn't say that He would find someone else to bless.

This account shows that God is long-suffering.

He was patient as Abram learned to trust Him more and more—living by faith.

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance charts as the main theme of Genesis 12.

God's promises to Abram, altars in Canaan, to Egypt

GENESIS 13

What are the main events in this chapter?

You can still use the maps and At a Glance chart as visual aids, plus the “Journal on God.”

What are verses 1-4 about?

Abram, Sarai, Lot, and company went back to the Negev (ESV—Negeb), to Canaan, to the altar between Bethel and Ai.

Abram again called on the Lord’s name.

God had not allowed Abram to be killed as he feared.

God had already made a promise to him that He would bless him.

God sent a plague against Pharaoh when he took Sarai.

God meant for His promise to come through her as well as Abram.

When God promises, it comes to pass; nothing can thwart His plans.

What are verses 5-13 about?

Abram and Lot had too many possessions to live together on the land.

There was strife between their herdsmen, so they separated.

Lot took the Jordan Valley going eastward, and Abram settled in the land of Canaan.

NOTE: Don’t spend too much time here on Lot as there will be a lesson later in this course which will cover all of the material about him. It is easy for people to get carried away speculating about Lot, so don’t give your group the opportunity. They will study him later.

Discuss what happened in verses 14-18 once this separation had taken place.

God spoke to Abram again and restated His promise of the land.

The land Abram saw would be given to him and his descendants forever.

Something new was added to the promise—forever.

A second new thing added was that God would make them as numerous as the dust.

Abram then moved his tent and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre in Hebron and built an altar there to the Lord.

Each time God spoke to Abram, he responded in some way. Maybe not always in the right way, but Abram was progressively following God’s leading.

What's a possible chapter theme for this chapter?

Abram and Lot separated

GENESIS 14

Verses 1-12

What are the main events?

The kings of verse 2—Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim and Bela or Zoar—served Chedorlaomer king of Elam for 12 years, but rebelled in the 13th year.

In the 14th year, Chedorlaomer and three other kings of the east—Shinar, Ellasar and Goiim—came to the valley of Siddim, the Salt Sea, to war with the five kings in Lot's area.

The four kings of the east defeated the peoples listed in verses 5-7, and then came to the area where Lot lived, verse 8.

NOTE: The Rephaim and Emim might be references to giants.

Lot was taken captive.

Verses 13-16

What happened next?

Abram took the 318 men born in his house as far as Dan to rescue Lot. Abram's men defeated the kings who had taken Lot.

Abram's 318 men defeated the four kings from the east whom the five kings in Lot's area couldn't defeat. The Lord protected Abram.

Verses 17-24

Who and what are these verses about?

After this the king of Sodom, went out to meet Abram at the valley of Shaveh, the King's Valley.

Another king, Melchizedek, the king of Salem, a priest of God Most High, brought out bread and wine. Melchizedek blessed Abram, and Abram gave him a tenth of the spoils.

Ask your group what they learned about Melchizedek.

Melchizedek means "king of righteousness" according to Hebrews 7:2. Salem means "peace," so he was the king of a city which meant peace.

He was a priest of God Most High.

Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5:5, 6; and 6:20

All speak of Jesus being a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 7

Melchizedek was without father, mother, genealogy, beginning of days, and end of life. He was made like the Son of God, a priest perpetually.

Abram paid him a tithe, a tenth.

NOTE: You don't need to mention Melchizedek as a Christophany; just be aware that someone might bring it up. Be cautious about too much discussion as to whether or not he was, since this could be a place where the discussion could move from its point to a tangent.

Discuss what Melchizedek said to Abram.

Melchizedek referred to God as “God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth.”

“God Most High” is the name connected with God’s sovereignty.

Abram saw that God is sovereign, and His plans will not be thwarted.

Melchizedek also reminded Abram that God delivered him from his enemies.

In verse 22 Abram called God, “the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth.”

He recognized God had given him not only this victory, but also everything that he had.

Verse 23 says Abram would not take anything from the king of Sodom so that the king could not say he made Abram rich.

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

Abram rescued Lot; Melchizedek

You can end your discussion by asking your group what they learned about the Lord and how it applies to their lives.

Ask what they learned also about Abram and how it relates to them.

God didn't tell Abram everything He wanted him to know all at once. It was progressive.

Abram didn't recognize all of the truth about God at the beginning. He grew in his knowledge of God and in his faith to follow God, to believe what God said—what He promised.

Encourage your group to continue to study and see God reveal truth to them through His Word and His Holy Spirit.

**BECOMING A FRIEND OF THE FAITHFUL GOD: A STUDY ON ABRAHAM
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 2**

Lesson emphasis:

- Genesis 15
- Covenant

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you can ask your group how Genesis 15 begins.

“After these things”

What things? Review the main themes of Genesis 12–14 using the At a Glance chart as a visual aid.

Genesis 12	God’s promises to Abram; Abram went to Canaan and Egypt
Genesis 13	Abram and Lot separated
Genesis 14	Abram rescued Lot; Melchizedek

GENESIS 15

What happened in verse 1?

The Lord’s word came in a vision to Abram.

He told Abram not to fear because He is a shield to him and his reward will be very great.

Relate this to how the Lord protected Abraham against Pharaoh and the kings at war. God was his shield.

God was his shield, so there was no need for fear. This is also true for believers today.

This statement also relates to what comes after it in the text of Genesis 15.

Verses 2-8

What are these verses about?

Abram asked the Lord two questions.

In verse 2, Abram asked God what He would give him since he was still childless and his heir was Eliezer.

NOTE: A custom of that time was for a childless couple to adopt a trusted slave to be their heir.

God then promised Abram that it would be one from his own body who would be his heir. This is the first time this is stated.

God took him outside and told him to look at the stars. God told him that his descendants / offspring would be as numerous as the stars. Relate this to Genesis 13:16, “dust of the earth.” This was not a new promise.

Verse 6 says Abram believed in the Lord. He believed the seed was coming from him as the Lord had promised, the seed who would bless all by faith.

God reckoned / counted this belief as righteousness to Abram’s account. His righteousness came from faith in God.

God reminded him that He had brought him out of Ur to give this land to him as his inheritance or possession.

His second question is in verse 8. Abram asked God how he would know this.

Then God made a covenant with him. He gave the land to his descendants / offspring.

What is a covenant?

covenant, *beriyth*—a solemn binding agreement made by passing through pieces of flesh

Verses 9-21

What happened when the Lord made a covenant with Abram?

Abram cut the animals, except the birds, and laid each piece opposite the other. He had to drive away the birds of prey.

When the sun was going down, Abram fell into a deep sleep. God said to him, “Know for certain . . .” answering his question in verse 8 of how he would know that he was going to possess the land.

His descendants / offspring would be enslaved 400 years.

Afterward, they would come out with many possessions.

God would judge that nation.

In the fourth generation, his descendants would return.

Abram would live a long life and die in peace.

When it was very dark, a smoking oven (ESV—fire pot) and a flaming torch passed between the pieces of the animals.

It was a custom when making a covenant for the parties to walk between the sacrificial animals. This smoking oven and flaming torch was not Abram passing

between the pieces; he was in a deep sleep. This was God Himself making the covenant.

The land was described as being from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates River, and God gave it to Abram's descendants. Use the map "From Ur to Canaan" as a visual aid.

How do the passages in Exodus 2; 3; 11; and 12 fulfill some of Genesis 15?

Tell your group to look at the chart in the lesson on Day 3 as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

Exodus 2

Israel—Abraham's descendants / offspring, the Hebrews—was in bondage in Egypt.

When Israel cried to the Lord, He remembered His covenant with Abraham, his son Isaac and his son Jacob, Israel.

Exodus 3; 11; and 12

Moses was used by God to do miracles in Egypt so the Egyptians would be compelled to let them go and to give many possessions to the people of Israel.

Thus they plundered the Egyptians when Moses led them out of Egypt to return to Canaan.

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart for the theme of Genesis 15.

Abram believed; the Lord made a covenant

Tell your group to look at the charts in the lesson on Day Four about the covenants. The timeline at the end of Day Five is also helpful.

THE OLD COVENANT, THE LAW

Ask your group what they learned about this covenant.

Exodus 24

After Egypt, on their way back to the promised land of Canaan, the people of Israel stopped in the desert.

There at Mount Sinai, God gave the Law, the Old Covenant, to the sons of Israel written on tablets of stone. The people covenanted with God, promising to keep the Law. Sacrifices and offerings were made.

Jeremiah 31

God made this covenant with Israel when He took them out of Egypt.

They broke it—didn't keep His commands as they said they would.

Galatians 3

Those who were under the Law were also under a curse to perform all of the Law. No one was justified by the Law. The Law didn't give life.

This covenant did not invalidate the Abrahamic Covenant or nullify the promise which God made with Abraham and his descendants / offspring.

Verse 21 said the Law was not contrary to the promises. These were two different covenants that are compatible.

The Old Covenant of the Law came 430 years after the promises spoken to Abraham and his seed.

NOTE: This was not 430 years after Genesis 15, but 430 years from the last time the promise was reiterated to Abraham's grandson Israel, Jacob, when God spoke to him on his way to Egypt in Genesis 46.

The Law was added because of transgressions until the seed / offspring, Christ, should come. The Law shows one's need for a Savior who can make righteous. It gives God's standard of righteousness. It was given as a tutor / guardian to lead men to Christ.

Unlike the Abrahamic Covenant, this covenant was a conditional one with an end. Israel was supposed to keep the conditions of this covenant, but instead, according to Jeremiah 31:32, they broke it.

What about today? How does all this apply to today?

Some people still try to get to God by a set of rules, many not according to God's Law but according to man-made laws of "holiness."

No law can impart life. Life does not come by works of a law, Galatians 3:21.

THE NEW COVENANT

Ask your group what they learned about this new covenant.

Jeremiah 31

It's not like the Old Covenant which was broken.

God writes His Law on the heart.

He'll be their God and they'll be His people. All will know Him.

He'll forgive iniquity and remember sins no more.

Ezekiel 36 and 2 Corinthians

He'll put His Spirit within to cause to walk in His statutes and ways.

Galatians 3

The Spirit is received by faith in Jesus Christ.

Believers in Jesus Christ, those who follow Abraham in faith

The promise of the seed / offspring to Abraham blesses all families of the earth.
Even Gentiles receive the Spirit by faith in Christ.

Luke 22:19-20

Jesus' blood is the blood of the New Covenant.

Then what is the New Covenant's relationship to the Old Covenant?

The New Covenant is not contrary to the Law.
The Law was to be a tutor / guardian for Israel until Christ came.

He has come, so there is no more need for the Old Covenant, the Law.

What is the relationship of the New Covenant to God's covenant with Abram?

Christ is Abraham's Seed / Offspring in whom all the families of the earth are blessed.

How do the three covenants relate to one another and to salvation?

Abrahamic Covenant, unconditional
promised the Seed / offspring
was a covenant of faith
for Abraham's descendants to inherit the land forever

The Law, Old Covenant; conditional
was added because of transgressions
is a tutor / guardian to lead to Christ
was until the Seed should come
did not invalidate or nullify the Abrahamic Covenant promises
was of works and not of faith

The New Covenant, salvation; unconditional
fulfillment of the promise of the Seed / offspring
forgiveness of sins
fulfillment of the Law because of the Spirit within, not contrary to the Law
brought the blessing of Abraham to the believing Gentiles

To end your discussion you can ask about Genesis 15:6 being quoted in the New Testament.

Romans 4

As in Galatians 3, Paul used Abraham as an illustration of one who was justified—made righteous—by faith.

James 2:14-26

James taught that righteousness comes from faith.

He states more than once that faith without works is dead.

If there is no evidence of salvation—no evidence of the Spirit dwelling within as the New Covenant of salvation promises—if there is no righteousness, then there is no faith.

James does not contradict what Paul says, but actually goes along with it.

Verses 21-24 give the explanation. Abraham's works showed that his faith was real. His faith was perfected or completed. This was the evidence of his faith.

As you close your discussion, you might ask your group the following:

Have you truly believed or have you tried to earn salvation?

True salvation is by faith, not by keeping the Law or doing good deeds.

Does your life give evidence that you are a believer?

His Spirit within causes believers to walk in His ways.

God's Covenant with Abram	The Old Covenant, The Law	The New Covenant
God made with Abram	God made with Israel	God made with believers
Promised descendants, Seed	Added because of transgressions	God's law within written on hearts
God gave this land to them	Tutor to lead to Christ	Forgive iniquity
Abram believed God	Israel broke the Law	God's Spirit within, cause to walk in His ways
All nations blessed		

**BECOMING A FRIEND OF THE FAITHFUL GOD: A STUDY ON ABRAHAM
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3**

Lesson emphasis:

- Genesis 16:1–18:19
- Is anything too difficult for the Lord?

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you can ask your group what they remember as the main points of Genesis 11:24–Genesis 15. Use the At A Glance chart, maps, and Family Tree as visual aids for this discussion.

Genesis 11:24-32	Abram and family left Ur and settled in Haran
Genesis 12	Abram, Sarai, Lot—Ur to Canaan, Abram built altars, then to Egypt
Genesis 13	In Canaan, Abram and Lot separated
Genesis 14	Abram rescued Lot; Melchizedek
Genesis 15	Lord made a covenant with Abram

Then you can ask specifically about God’s promises to Abram in Genesis 12.

God promised to make Abram a great nation and to bless him.

He would make his name great and make him a blessing.

God would bless those who blessed Abram and curse those who cursed him.

In him, God promised to bless all families of the earth.

Verse 7 adds that God promised the land of Canaan to Abram’s descendants / offspring.

How old was Abram in Genesis 12?

He was 75 years old when he departed from Haran.

How did God expand on His promises to Abram in Genesis 13?

God said the land was for Abram and his descendants forever.

His descendants would be as numerous as the dust of the earth.

What did the Lord tell Abram about his heir in Genesis 15?

He promised that one from Abram's own body (ESV—his very own son) will be his heir.

GENESIS 16

There is a simple timeline at the end of this lesson's guide which you can use as a visual aid.

Verses 1-6

What happened in these verses?

Sarai offered her idea as to how Abram could have an heir—one from his own body. She gave her Egyptian maid / servant Hagar to Abram as his wife to produce an heir.

Abram listened to the voice of his wife in this matter and did as she suggested. This was 10 years after they had lived in the land of Canaan. Abram was approximately 85 years old at the time. God first promised descendants / offspring to Abram about 10 years earlier.

What is the chain of events?

Sarai gave Hagar to Abram as his wife to produce an heir.

Abram went in to Hagar, and she conceived.

Hagar then despised (ESV—looked on with contempt) Sarai.

Sarai treated her harshly.

Hagar ran away.

Do people, even believers, get tired of waiting on God and come up with their own solutions?

How can believers prevent this kind of thing from happening in their lives?

Learn to trust God and wait for His timing to bring about His promises in His way.

Verses 7-14

What happened in these verses?

Hagar, the Egyptian maid / servant, fled from Sarai's presence toward Egypt.

Shur is on the way to Egypt from Hebron. Here the angel of the Lord met her in the wilderness and told her to return and submit to Sarai.

Then God made a promise to Hagar.

- greatly multiply her descendants / offspring to be too numerous to count. Abram's descendants, as well as Hagar's

- a son
She was to name him “Ishmael,” which means, “God hears.”¹ At the end of verse 11, He says the Lord has given heed to / listened to or, literally, “has heard” Hagar’s affliction.²

What’s the description of Ishmael?

a wild donkey of a man
against everyone and everyone against him
live to the east of his brothers (ESV—dwell over against all his kinsmen)

At this point, you can ask your group what they learned about the names of the Lord in this lesson. Have them use the Journal on God as visual aid for this part of your discussion.

Genesis 14:18-20	El Elyon, God Most High
Genesis 15:2	Lord GOD—Adonai means “master” or “lord”
Genesis 16:11	God heard the affliction of Hagar. Ishmael means, “God hears.”
Genesis 16:13	“a God who sees / a God of seeing.”

NOTE: This is transliterated as El roi. In verse 14 the well was named literally, “the well of the living one who sees me.”³

Give time for your group to discuss who God is and how that relates to their circumstances.

Verses 15-16

How does this chapter end?

Hagar gave birth to Ishmael when Abram was 86 years old.

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for Genesis 16.

Hagar birthed Ishmael when Abram was 86

GENESIS 17

How does this chapter begin? What was Abram’s age?

Abram was 99 years old.
He was 75 years old when he left Haran, so 24 years had passed since then.
There were 13 years between Genesis 16 and 17.

¹ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*, marginal note (Genesis 16:11) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

² *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*, marginal note (Genesis 16:11) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

³ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*, marginal note (Genesis 16:14) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

Verses 1-8

What happened?

The Lord appeared to Abram and spoke with him.

God revealed Himself to Abram as God Almighty, El Shaddai.

This name of God means exactly what it says. He is the Almighty One, the Powerful One, or Mighty One. Some think this name also means All-Sufficient One.

He told Abram to walk before Him and be blameless, in other words to live as God would have him live. This was not to say that he had not been doing this, but it was a command from God to keep on living as he should.

God then began to speak of covenant again.

He changed Abram’s name to “Abraham.”

Abraham means, “father of a multitude,” whereas Abram means, “exalted father.”⁴

God promised that nations and kings would come from Abraham.

What else did the Lord say?

His covenant with Abraham and his descendants / offspring is an everlasting covenant and the land will be theirs forever. He stated twice that He will be their God.

Verses 9-14

What are these verses about?

The sign of this covenant was circumcision.

Abraham and his descendants were to keep this as a condition of the covenant.

If a man was not circumcised, he was to be cut off from his people (the nation of Israel), because he had broken the covenant.

This included all of the servants and foreigners among them. Every male at least 8 days old was to be circumcised.

The sign of God’s everlasting covenant—the promise of descendants / offspring and the land—is in their flesh.

⁴ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*, marginal note (Genesis 17:5) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

Concerning the physical location of circumcision, this is the place closest to the seed that God told Abraham would come forth from his own body. It was a sign of the promise God made to Abraham for descendants / offspring.

Since the lineage was through the men and not the women, the sign of the covenant was unnecessary for the women. If the husband was part of the covenant, then so was his wife or his daughter.

Verses 15-22

What are these verses about?

The Lord spoke about Sarai, and He changed her name to Sarah, meaning “princess.”⁵

Then God gave the promise to Abraham—for the first time—that Sarah would have a son. She would be the mother of nations and kings.

What followed this promise? Use the chart about Isaac and Ishmael on Day Four of the lesson as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

Abraham fell on his face laughing and questioning in his heart.

Then he suggested to the Lord that Ishmael might live before Him, presumably as his heir.

God said no, Ishmael was not going to be the one through whom the covenant descendants / offspring would come, who would inherit the land forever, nor through whom the Seed would come.

Isaac was God’s choice for the covenant. Isaac means, “he laughs.”⁶

God promised that Ishmael would, however, be fruitful and multiply and be the father of twelve princes and a great nation. But the covenant promises would go to Isaac whom Sarah would bear to Abraham at the same season the next year.

What did Abraham know by this point, according to Romans 4:18-21?

Even though he knew that there was no physical way that Sarah and he could produce a child, he believed what the Lord told him. He wasn’t weak in faith.

He was fully assured / convinced that what God promised, He was able to perform.

He came to understand that nothing was too difficult / hard for the Lord.

⁵ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*, marginal note (Genesis 17:15) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

⁶ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*, marginal note (Genesis 17:19) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

Lesson 3, Chapters 16:1–18:19

Lead your discussion back to Genesis 17.

From the conversation between God and Abraham, what can you learn about their relationship?

Abraham had no problem talking with God and even expressing his concerns when he didn't understand how God would accomplish something. He knew Him as the Most High God, his Lord and Master, Creator of heaven and earth. He knew Him as God Almighty—nothing was or is too difficult for Him.

Verses 23-27

What event ends chapter 17? Was Abraham obedient to keep his part of the covenant? When? How soon after God spoke to him?

Abraham was circumcised that very day and had all of the men of his household circumcised as well, including every male eight days and older. Ishmael was thirteen years old, and Abraham was ninety-nine years old.

He was immediately obedient to what God had told him to do.

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

Circumcision—sign of the covenant, Abraham 99

Give your group time to discuss any application from this chapter.

GENESIS 18:1-19

Verses 1-8

What happened?

The Lord appeared to Abraham again by the oaks of Mamre in Hebron.

Abraham was still living in Hebron where he had moved in Genesis 13:18.

The Lord appeared as one of three men who visited Abraham at his tent. Abraham prepared a meal for them.

Verses 9-15

What was the conversation?

They asked where Sarah was. She was in the tent.

The same promise was made as in Genesis 17:15-21.

The timing of these two chapters is close to the same.

Sarah will have a son at this time next year—Isaac.

In verse 13, during Abraham’s conversation with the men, the Lord asked Abraham why Sarah laughed.

Then the question was asked,
Is anything too difficult for the Lord?

And then the promise was stated again. And Sarah denied that she laughed.

Ask your group how these verses apply to a believer’s life now.

Verses 16-19

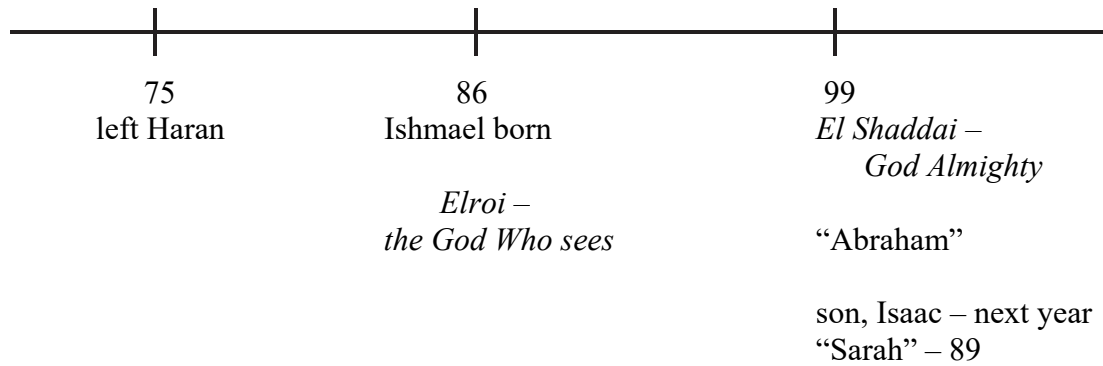
What are these verses about?

This shows the relationship between the Lord and Abraham.

God didn’t hide from Abraham what He was going to do, because in him all nations of the earth will be blessed.

God chose him so that he could command all those nations who would come from him to do right according to the Lord’s ways.

To end your discussion, you might ask your group if they know the Lord like Abraham did.



Is anything too difficult / hard for the LORD?

**BECOMING A FRIEND OF THE FAITHFUL GOD: A STUDY ON ABRAHAM
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4**

Lesson emphasis:

- Genesis 18:16–19:38

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you can ask what your group remembers from Genesis 11–18. As you review, you might also ask what Genesis 11–18 says about Lot. They looked at cross-references about him on Day Five of the lesson.

Tell them to look at their At A Glance chart and the map “Abraham’s Sojournings” as visual aids.

Genesis 11:27-32 Abram and family left Ur and settled in Haran
Lot’s father, Abraham’s brother, Haran died in Ur.

Genesis 12 Abram, Sarai, Lot—Ur to Canaan, Abram built altars, then to Egypt

Genesis 13 In Canaan, Abram and Lot separated
Lot had great possessions like Abram—flocks, herds, and tents. When he and Abram separated, Lot chose the valley of the Jordan. At that time, it was like the garden of the Lord, well watered everywhere. Then he settled in the city of Sodom where the men were wicked and sinners.

Genesis 14 Abram rescued Lot, Melchizedek, God Most High
Lot was taken captive by the kings warring with the king of Sodom and his allies. Abram defeated the kings, but his aim was to rescue Lot.

Genesis 15 Lord made a covenant with Abram

Genesis 16 Ishmael was born when Abram was 86, God who sees

Genesis 17 “Abraham,” circumcision—sign of covenant, Isaac promised at 99

Genesis 18 3 men, Lord, visited Abraham, next year a son, Judge of all earth

GENESIS 18:16-33

What happened in these verses?

The Lord told Abraham what His plan was concerning Sodom and Gomorrah and why. The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was exceedingly grave.

An outcry had come to Him, and He was going down to see.

How does this relate to Genesis 11:6-9?

Tell your group to look at the chart from Day Four in the lesson as a visual aid for this.

A similar statement was made that the Lord “came down” to see about an unrighteous situation.

God is all-knowing—omniscient.

He didn’t have to come down from heaven to earth to see if something were true.

But in these two instances, He did, and both resulted in judgment.

The tower of Babel and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah are both widely known even today.

How did Abraham refer to God in verse 25? Why?

The Judge of all the earth

Abraham asked God to spare the city of Sodom if there were fifty righteous within it. As he continued, God agreed to Abraham’s requests, ending with only ten righteous in the city.

The two men, angels, had left the Lord speaking with Abraham and headed toward Sodom to destroy it. Surely Abraham’s request that the city be spared showed his concern for his nephew Lot.

You might ask your group what lessons for life they learned from this chapter. Give time for them to share relevant application.

GENESIS 19

How does this chapter begin? What are the details of verse 1?

The two angels—called men in chapter 18—got to Sodom at evening. Lot was sitting in the city gate and rose to meet them.

What does 2 Peter 2:7-8 say about Lot?

Lot is described as a righteous man.

Relate this to how Abraham was counted righteous before God.

He believed in the Lord, Genesis 15:6.

Second Peter 2 does not say when Lot became a righteous man, only that he was at some point while living in Sodom. It does not say he was righteous before living in Sodom.

As a righteous man, he was oppressed / distressed by the sensual conduct of the unprincipled / wicked men around him. While living among them, he felt his righteous soul tormented day after day with their lawless deeds.

Lead your discussion back to Genesis 19. What is the sequence of events in verses 1-11?

The two angels, in the form of men, went to Sodom.
Lot urged them to stay at his house for the night.

The men of Sodom tried to take those two so they could have sexual relations with them.
Lot tried to protect them and offered his two virgin daughters instead.
Lot was threatened by the city men.

The angels struck the men blind at Lot's door.

Ask your group what they learned from the cross-references about homosexuality.

NOTE: As you discuss this, be aware that one or more of your group might have a child or relative, co-worker, acquaintance, or perhaps the child of a friend who is a homosexual, or may even be converted or practicing homosexuals themselves.

Leviticus 18:22; 20:13

It's a clear command from God that a man is not to lie with a male as one lies with a female. It is an abomination, a detestable act, and punishable by death.

Judges 19–20

This is another account of homosexuality with similar events to Genesis.

Again women were offered to the men outside. This time a woman was given to them so that they raped and abused her all night, and she was dead the next morning.

All Israel came against this.

What does the New Testament say about those who practice homosexuality?

Romans 1:18-32

God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.

Men are without excuse before God.

They dishonored their own bodies, because they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, worshipping themselves instead of God.

There is a downward spiral listed in these verses. Part of that is degrading passions.

Lesson 4, Chapters 18:16–19:38

Women exchange the natural function / relations for that which is unnatural / contrary to nature. Men abandon the natural function of / relation with the woman and burn in their desire toward one another, committing indecent / shameless acts with other men.

Those who practice these things are worthy of death.

They not only practice these things, but also give hearty approval to others who practice the same sins.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and Galatians 5:19-21

This clearly states that those who practice this sin have no inheritance in the kingdom of God. In other words, they have never been saved. They are the unrighteous.

But God saves people out of homosexuality.

Some of the Corinthian believers had, in the past, practiced such sins. God had washed them, sanctified them, and justified them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of God. He saved them.

Revelation 21:6-8

The end of unbelievers is the lake of fire, the second death.

So, can a person be a practicing homosexual and a true child of God?

No, not according to the Word of God

How are believers to treat homosexuals?

Like any other sinner

Lead your discussion back to Genesis 19:12-26. Tell your group to look at the map. What did the two men/angels tell Lot, and how did he respond?

They told him they were going to destroy Sodom and that he was to warn his family.

Lot warned his future sons-in-law of the coming judgment on their city but they didn't listen. The next morning when it was time to leave, Lot hesitated and the angels led him out of the city with his wife and two daughters.

They were told to escape and not to look behind them. Lot's wife, however, looked behind and turned into a pillar of salt.

Lot was afraid they might not be able to make it to the mountains before the judgment started, since they were in the valley, so he asked to go to the town now called Zoar. His request was granted. God’s destruction of Sodom was so complete that all the cities around it were destroyed, the entire valley, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. Zoar was spared.

At this point, you can ask your group what they learned from the cross-references about Sodom. Tell them to look at the chart “What the Bible Says about Sodom” as a visual aid.

Deuteronomy

God overthrew the cities in His anger and wrath.

Jeremiah--no man will live there.

Lamentations—it was overthrown in a moment.

Zephaniah—Moab will be like Sodom—nettles, salt pits, perpetual desolation.

Jude

Sodom and Gomorrah are examples in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire because they indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh.

Isaiah

They displayed their sin and didn’t conceal it.

Jeremiah and Ezekiel

These passages list some of the sins as adultery, falsehood, evildoers, wickedness, arrogance, not helping needy, haughty.

Matthew

Jesus said if the miracles done in Capernaum had been done in Sodom, it would have remained.

Lead your discussion back to Genesis 19. What are verses 27-29 about?

Early in the morning Abraham, from the oaks of Mamre at Hebron, looked toward the valley and saw the smoke of God’s judgment ascending.

He knew then that there had not been even ten righteous people in the city of Sodom.

But God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out. Relate this to Genesis 18:23-25. God, Judge of all the earth is just and did not sweep away the righteous with the wicked.

Verses 30-38

What are these verses about? Use the Family Tree and map for visual aids.

Lot was afraid to stay in Zoar, so he went to the mountains and stayed in a cave with his two daughters.

His daughters thought that there was not a man on earth to father children by them.

They made Lot so drunk on two different occasions that he didn't know what they did. They seduced him to father a son by each of them.

Their sons were Moab and Ben-ammi.

From these came the Moabites and the Ammonites who lived in what is today Jordan. Both are mentioned quite frequently in the Old Testament.

Ask what your group noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for Genesis 19.

God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot's sons by his daughters

To end this discussion, you might ask what your group noted on their "Journal on God" from Genesis 18 and 19, and how that ministers to them.

**BECOMING A FRIEND OF THE FAITHFUL GOD: A STUDY ON ABRAHAM
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 5**

Lesson emphasis:

- Genesis 20 and 21

REVIEW

Ask your group what they remember as the main events of Genesis 11:27 through chapter 19. If they can't remember, then direct them to look at their At A Glance charts.

The maps can also be helpful visual aids for this discussion.

What does Genesis 16:1-16 say about Hagar and Ishmael?

Direct your group to look at their chart on Day Four about Hagar and Ishmael.

Sarai gave her Egyptian maid, Hagar, to Abram as his wife, to have an heir through Hagar. Hagar conceived a child by Abram and then despised (ESV—looked with contempt on) Sarai. Sarai treated Hagar harshly, so she fled into the wilderness toward Egypt.

God spoke to Hagar there, telling her to return and submit to Sarai. He said He would greatly multiply her descendants / offspring, too many to count. She would have a son and name him Ishmael, meaning, “God hears.”⁷ He would be a wild donkey of a man, against everyone, and live to the east of all his brothers.

Hagar named that place after the God who sees (ESV—a God of seeing). She bore Abram a son when he was eighty-six years old.

What does Genesis 17:18-26 say about Ishmael?

When Abraham was ninety-nine, he suggested to God that Ishmael might live before Him, as his heir. God said a very clear, “No.” God’s everlasting covenant would be established with Isaac. Sarah was to bear Isaac at the same time the next year.

God said of Ishmael that He would bless him, make him fruitful, and multiply him exceedingly. He would be the father of twelve princes and a great nation.

That same day Abraham circumcised Ishmael at the age of thirteen as well as every male among his household as God commanded him.

⁷ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*, marginal note (Genesis 16:11) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

GENESIS 20

What is the progression of events?

Direct them to look at the maps as visual aids for this part of your discussion.

Abraham and Sarah went to Gerar. Abraham told the king of Gerar Sarah was his sister. Although Sarah was eighty-nine years old at this time, the king took her. Relate this to the trip to Egypt in Genesis 12.

God intervened by coming in a dream to Abimelech the king. He told him that he was a dead man unless he restored Sarah to her husband. Abimelech reminded God that he had done this in integrity of heart and innocence. God had kept him from touching Sarah and sinning.

This was sometime shortly after God's promise that Sarah would have a son the next year.

God told Abimelech to restore / return Sarah to Abraham. God had closed the wombs of Abimelech's entire household during this time.

After calling Abraham into account for his sin of deception, Abimelech's household was healed by God in answer to Abraham's prayer. Abraham was not perfect, but he was a righteous man who committed a sin. Although he believed in God and His promises, he feared for his life and deceived Abimelech for protection.

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for this chapter.

Abimelech took Sarah in Gerar

Give time for your group to discuss how the principles of this chapter can be applied to their lives.

GENESIS 21

Verses 1-7

What are the main events?

Sarah bore a son to Abraham at the appointed time that God had spoken. God's promises do come to pass, maybe not always in man's timing, but always in His. Relate this to Genesis 17:21; 18:10, 14.

Abraham was one hundred years old when Isaac was born, and Sarah was ninety years old. He circumcised Isaac when he was eight days old.

How do Hebrews 11 and Romans 4 relate to Isaac's birth?

Tell your group to look at their chart for Day Two and Three in the lesson.

Hebrews 11:11-12

By faith Sarah received ability to conceive because she considered God faithful. She believed His promise.

Romans 4:13-25

God made the promise to Abraham and his descendants / offspring that he would be the heir of the world. It was based on faith.

Verse 17 says Abraham believed God who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.

Verse 19 says Abraham's body was as good as dead and Sarah's womb was dead. Hebrews 11:11-12 also says he was as good as dead with respect to having a child.

Abraham believed God could perform what He promised. He had promised a son to Abraham and Sarah, and Abraham was fully assured / convinced that God could perform it. Abraham's faith was unwavering, growing strong. Even when he considered his own body's condition—as good as dead—and the deadness of Sarah's womb, his faith was not weak.

Ask your group if their faith is unwavering, growing strong? Why or why not? How does this kind of faith come about?

Lead your discussion back to Genesis 21:8-21. What's the next event in this chapter?

Abraham made a great feast the day Isaac was weaned.

Sarah saw Ishmael, then possibly about sixteen years old, mocking Isaac. She told Abraham to drive out this maid and her son, for Ishmael would not be an heir with her son Isaac. This caused distress / displeasure for Abraham, because Ishmael too was his son. God told him not to be distressed / displeased because He would make a nation of Ishmael since he was Abraham's descendant. But God also told him to listen to Sarah.

Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael away, and they wandered about in the wilderness of Beersheba.

What happened when Hagar was in the wilderness?

The angel of the Lord again called to Hagar in the wilderness. He told her not to fear; He would make a great nation of the lad. Then He opened her eyes to see a well.

Ishmael grew and lived in the wilderness of Paran. He became an archer. Hagar took an Egyptian wife for him. Relate this to Genesis 16:1; Hagar was Egyptian.

How does Galatians 4:21-31 add to these events in Genesis 21?

Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit of God, said Hagar and Sarah were representative of the two covenants: the Law, the Old Covenant; and salvation, the New Covenant.

Although these events really happened as recorded in Genesis, they are shown in another light by a New Testament author.

NOTE: Scripture interprets Scripture. Only God, in His Word, has assigned any secondary meanings to Scriptures. Too many times people get carried away trying to “spiritualize” events in the Old Testament. The truths about God and how He deals with people in this course on Abraham are examples of the richness of the Old Testament taken literally.

Ask what your group learned from Galatians 4.

You can use the chart at the end of this lesson’s guide as a visual aid for this.

Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman / slave woman—Hagar, and one by the free woman—Sarah.

The son by the bondwoman / slave woman was born according to the flesh. It was Sarai’s idea to give Hagar to Abram to produce an heir.

The son of the free woman was born through the promise. It was only by God that Isaac was born.

In this allegory, these two women represent two covenants, one from Mount Sinai, the Old Covenant of the Law. Hagar is representative of the Law and her children are slaves in bondage to the Law. They are those who teach or believe that righteousness only comes by keeping the Law through works of the flesh.

You might ask your group if they know of examples of this today.

Some people today are in bondage to legalistic sets of “Dos and Don’ts.” Some think, and are even taught, that to be holy or righteous they have to be doing certain things thought up by men and not doing another list of things.

Verse 25 says this corresponds to the present Jerusalem in slavery with her children. At the time Paul wrote Galatians, there was much legalism in Jerusalem and in Judaism in other places.

The son of the bondwoman / slave woman will not be an heir with the son of the free woman.

Sarah, the free woman, is representative of the New Covenant of salvation. Her children are free—the Jerusalem above. Believers in Jesus Christ are her children born according to the Spirit, like Isaac, children of promise.

So what does it mean to cast out the bondwoman / slave woman and her son?

Get rid of legalism and works of the flesh
Don't be bound to keeping a set of rules
Don't live a life of slavery
Be set free by the Spirit

Believe the promises of God—live by faith. Righteousness comes by faith, not works. Even from the time of Abraham righteousness has been by faith. It is still the only way to salvation.

As a result of salvation, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, there will be righteousness by faith.

Live by the Spirit to cast out the bondwoman / slave woman and her son.

Lead your discussion back to the text of Genesis 21. What happened in verses 22-34?

Abimelech came back on the scene.

Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, came to Abraham. Abimelech wanted assurance from Abraham. Abimelech knew God was with Abraham in all that he did. If they were going to live near one another, he wanted to be safe.

Abraham swore to Abimelech that he would treat him with kindness. He also complained about a well that had been taken from him by Abimelech's servants. Wells were a means of survival in that dry land.

They made a covenant. Here is a covenant between men.

Abraham set seven ewe lambs by themselves and gave them to Abimelech as a witness that he had dug the well. He called the place Beersheba, because there the two of them took an oath.

Abimelech returned to the land of the Philistines, and Abraham planted a tree at Beersheba and called on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God.

Abraham stayed a long time in the land of the Philistines.

At this point, you might ask your group what they've noted on their Journal on God, especially what He is called. And how knowing Him helps believers with daily life.

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

Isaac born; Hagar and Ishmael sent away; Abraham and Abimelech covenant

Give time for your group to discuss what they've learned about the Lord and what they've learned from Abraham's example of faith.

Bondwoman / slave woman: Hagar

Son born according to flesh, not an heir

Mt. Sinai, Law

Children in slavery to law

Free woman: Sarah

Son of promise according to Spirit

New Covenant of faith

Children of promise are free according
to the Spirit

**BECOMING A FRIEND OF THE FAITHFUL GOD: A STUDY ON ABRAHAM
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 6**

Lesson emphasis:

- Genesis 22–23; 25:1-18
- Abraham offered Isaac

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you can ask your group how Genesis 22 begins.

After these things

Genesis 22 is after what things? Use this as an introduction to review the main events of Abraham's life in Genesis 11:27 through chapter 21. Ask your group what they remember. Tell them to look at their At A Glance charts and maps if they need help.

GENESIS 22

Verses 1-8

What is the sequence of events in these verses?

God tested Abraham by telling him to offer his only son Isaac, whom he loved, as a burnt offering on one of the mountains in the land of Moriah.

Abraham took two young men, Isaac, and wood for the offering and went, obeying the Lord.

On the third day, Abraham left his young men saying that he and the lad would go worship and return.

God called this a test. Abraham called it worship.

Obedience is an act of worship, of bowing to God's will.

You might ask your group what they are willing to do to obey God.

What did Abraham know?

Abraham knew he would return with Isaac because God had promised that He would establish His covenant with Isaac and his descendants.

Lesson 6, Chapters 22–23; 25:1-18

How do the cross-references help to understand Genesis 22?

Hebrews 11:8-19

As with other main events in Abraham's life, he offered Isaac by faith—believing God.

He believed God is able to raise the dead. Even if he sacrificed Isaac, God would raise him because of His promise which involved Isaac.

James 2:20-26

Abraham's faith was working with his works. He believed God and did what He told him to do. His works showed he truly believed God, had faith.

Hebrews 11:19 says Abraham received Isaac back as a type (ESV—figuratively speaking, he received Isaac back).

How was Isaac a type of God's beloved Son?

John 3:16

God loved the world and He offered His only Son. Then He raised Him from the dead.

What happened in verses 6-8?

Isaac was old enough to carry the wood—enough wood for a burnt offering.

He was called a lad, which is the same word used for Ishmael in the previous chapter when he was about 16 years old.

Isaac was willing to obey his father.

He asked where the lamb for the burnt offering was, and Abraham told him God will provide.

Verses 9-14

How does the sequence of events continue?

They came to Moriah, and Abraham built the altar, arranged the wood, and bound Isaac. He laid his son on the altar.

As he was about to kill him, the Lord called to Abraham.

The test was about Abraham fearing the Lord. He didn't withhold his son of promise from the Lord, but God didn't require Abraham to slay Isaac to prove his faith.

After the Lord stopped Abraham from killing Isaac, He provided the ram as a sacrifice.

Ask your group what they learned about the name of the Lord associated with this event.

Direct them to their Journal on God. At this point, you might review what they've learned about God in this study.

14:18-20	God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth
15:2	Lord (Adonai)
16:13	Elroi, the God who sees
16:11	Ishmael means, "God hears"
17:1	God Almighty (El Shaddai)
18:25	Judge of all the earth who deals justly / does what is just
20:17-18	opens and closes wombs
21:33	the Everlasting God (El Olam)
22:14	The Lord will provide: Jehovah-jireh

It's not necessary to cover all of these.

Ask your group if they trust the Lord as Abraham did. Are they growing in faith, in knowing God more? Give time for discussing application.

Verses 15-19

What happened next?

Because Abraham obeyed God, the Lord added to the promises He'd already made to him. His seed / offspring would possess the gate of their / his enemies—overcome.

All nations will be blessed because of Abraham's obedience.

Abraham and Isaac returned to live at Beersheba where they had been since chapter 21.

Verses 20-24

How does this chapter end? Use the Family Tree as a visual aid here.

Abraham heard about the children of his brother Nahor, who married their niece Milcah. Milcah was Lot's sister and the daughter of Haran, Abraham and Nahor's brother who had died in Ur.

And he had a concubine who bore him four other children.

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for this chapter.

Abraham offered Isaac

GENESIS 23

What happened in this chapter?

Sarah died, and Abraham buried her at Hebron.

When did she die?

Sarah was 127 years old when she died, and Abraham was 137 years old at that time.

He was 75 when he came to the land of Canaan, so Sarah's death took place 62 years after entering Canaan.

Isaac was born when Abraham was 100; therefore, Isaac was 37 when Sarah died.

Where did Sarah die and where was she buried? Tell your group to look at the map "Abraham's Sojournings."

Hebron—verse 19 indicates that's Mamre.

Relate this to Genesis 13:18 and 18:1

—one of the places they lived and Abraham built an altar

—where the three men appeared to him, the Lord and two angels

Abraham bought a place there to bury his wife.

You might ask if they've heard anything lately about Hebron.

How did Abraham refer to himself in verse 4? Compare with Hebrews 11.

A stranger and a sojourner (ESV—sojourner and foreigner)

Hebrews 11:8-19

Abraham lived as an alien in the land of promise, Canaan. He was looking for the city whose builder is God.

Abraham and Sarah were strangers and exiles on the earth, seeking a country of their own. They desired a better country, a heavenly one. God prepared a city for them. They found what they were looking for.

You might ask your group how they are living during their time on earth. Give time for application discussion.

What does 1 Peter 3 say about Sarah?

1 Peter 3:1-6

Sarah was a holy example.

She hoped in God and submitted to her husband.

What is a possible theme for Genesis 23?

Sarah died; Abraham buried her in Hebron

GENESIS 25:1-18

Verses 1-6

What happened after Sarah died?

Abraham took another wife named Keturah.

Use the Family Tree and maps as visual aids as your group discusses these verses.

Abraham had six sons by Keturah.

He gave gifts to the sons of his concubines (not the first or primary wife).

Ishmael by Hagar

The six sons of Keturah

Then he sent them away from Isaac toward the east.

Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac because he was the son of promise, son of the covenant. Isaac lived in Beer-lahai-roi.

What are verses 7-11 about?

Abraham died at the age of 175 years

Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah where Sarah was buried

Abraham outlived Sarah by 38 years.

Isaac, the son of promise, was 75 when his father died.

Ishmael was approximately 89 when Abraham died.

Who are verses 12-18 about?

The generations of Ishmael

Ishmael had 12 sons, or princes. Relate this to the promise God gave to Abraham in Genesis 17:20. These sons settled from Havilah to Shur, east of (or before) / opposite Egypt as one goes toward Assyria.

Ishmael lived 137 years. He outlived Abraham by only 48 years.

How was Abraham remembered by his descendants? Discuss the cross-references.

2 Chronicles 20:7

King Jehoshaphat of Judah reminded God of His promise to give the land of Israel to Abraham's descendants. He referred to Abraham as, "Your friend" (ESV—your friend).

Lesson 6, Chapters 22–23; 25:1-18

Isaiah 41:8

God called Abraham His friend.

James 2:23

Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned / counted to him as righteousness, and Abraham was called the friend of God.

Give time for application discussion.

You might also ask your group what they learned from Abraham's life as lessons for their own lives.

ABRAHAM'S FAMILY TREE

