

Self Study Guide

"Promise Keeping God" - Genesis 20

Opening Prayer

Begin your time by asking God to help you trust His promises even when circumstances make faith difficult.

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. The Bible is filled with broken people - Only Jesus is perfect; even revered saints like Abraham needed a Savior.
2. Abraham's four-fold moral failure:
 - He lied by omission about Sarah being his wife
 - This was a repeated sin (second time doing this)
 - He cowardly made his wife his protector instead of protecting her
 - He failed to trust God's promises
3. Faith crises aren't about God's existence - They're about whether we believe God will keep His promises.
4. God keeps His promises even when our faith is weak - God blessed Abimelech through Abraham despite Abraham's faithlessness.
5. God's faithfulness doesn't depend on us - His ability and willingness to keep promises depend solely on Him.

Questions

1. Read Genesis 20. What stands out to you most about this passage? What surprises you?
2. How does Abimelech's response to God (verses 4-5) compare to Abraham's behavior? What does this tell us about assumptions we make about believers and non-believers?
3. In verse 11, Abraham says, "I thought there is no fear of God in this place." How does this contrast with his interaction with God just three chapters earlier regarding Sodom and Gomorrah?

Reflection

1. Faith Crisis Exploration: The sermon states, "Faith is about whether or not we believe God's promises."
 - When has your life not seemed to match up with what you read in Scripture?
 - How did you respond during that season?
2. The sermon mentions several scenarios (job loss, family crisis, house fire, death of a loved one) that can cause us to question God's goodness.
 - Have you experienced something that made you question whether God was keeping His promises?
 - How did you work through that struggle?
3. The "Remember" Principle: God repeatedly calls His people to remember what He has done.
 - What are some specific times you have clearly seen God work in your life?
 - How can remembering these moments help during current or future struggles?

Going Deeper

1. Abraham's fear led him to sin and put others in danger.
 - What fears in your own life tempt you to compromise or make poor decisions?
 - How might trusting God's promises more fully address those fears?
2. The sermon points out that God blessed Abimelech by making him sick (preventing him from sinning with Sarah).
 - How does this challenge our understanding of God's blessings?
 - Can you think of a time when what seemed like hardship was actually God's protection or blessing?
3. Canons of Dort Quote: "Those who have been converted could not remain standing in this grace left on their own resources. But God, who is faithful, mercifully strengthens them..."
 - How does knowing that your salvation doesn't depend on the strength of your faith bring you comfort?
 - How might this truth change the way you approach times of doubt?

Application

1. Abraham had a pattern of repeating this same sin.
 - What patterns of sin do you find yourself repeating when under pressure?
 - What would it look like to break that pattern by trusting God's promises instead?
2. The sermon emphasizes that we are saved by "God's grace alone through Christ alone."
 - How does this truth free us from the pressure to perform perfectly?
 - How should this affect the way we view our own failures and the failures of others?

Moving Forward

- Practice Remembering: Make it a habit in your prayer time to begin by remembering what God has done before asking for what you need.
- Study God's Promises: Start a list of God's promises in Scripture. When you face difficulties, review this list and ask God to help you believe.
- Extend Grace: When you see other believers struggle or fail, remember that we're all broken people who need Jesus. Extend the same grace God extends to us.