Becoming Abraham: Grace for Failures

Small Group Discussion | Genesis 20:1–18

I. The Repeat Offender (vv. 1–7)

1. Abraham repeats nearly the same sin he committed 25 years earlier (Genesis 12:10–20; 20:1–2). Why do Christians sometimes continue struggling with familiar sins despite genuine spiritual growth?

2. Abraham knew God's promises but struggled to trust them in practice (Genesis 17:15–19; 20:1–2). What's the difference between believing God's promises intellectually and trusting them in everyday life?

3. Abraham valued his personal safety more than obedience (Genesis 20:11). How can good desires—like security, comfort, or approval—become idols in our lives?

II. The Excuses We Keep Making (vv. 8–13)

4. Abimelech, a pagan king, confronts Abraham about his wrongdoing (Genesis 20:8–10). What does this reveal about spiritual pride and our capacity for self-deception?

5. Abraham explains his actions rather than explicitly confessing his sin (Genesis 20:11–13). How can we distinguish between explaining our behavior and making excuses for it?

6. How might doubting God's goodness lead us into sin (Genesis 20:11–13)? Why is addressing our underlying unbelief often more important than simply trying harder?

7. If our righteousness rests on Christ rather than our performance (Philippians 3:8–9), why do we still find it so difficult to admit when we're wrong?

III. The Grace God Keeps Giving (vv. 14–18)

8. Despite Abraham's failure, God preserves His covenant promises (Genesis 20:14–18). How can we rest in God's grace without becoming complacent about sin?

9. God uses Abraham to bring healing to Abimelech's household despite Abraham's failures (Genesis 20:7, 17–18). What does this teach us about God's willingness to work through imperfect people?

IV. Looking to Christ

10. Abraham sought to preserve his life at the expense of his bride, while Christ gave His life to save His bride, the church (Genesis 20:11–13; Ephesians 5:25–27). How does Christ's perfect obedience give us both assurance in our failures and motivation to pursue holiness?