

Atoning with Your Neighbor

Genesis 20

- Abraham lied about his wife (_____), and Abimelek accidentally _____ her. (Genesis 20:1-2, 11-13)
- God _____ Abimelek and his family for endangering the Covenant _____. (Genesis 20:3, 18)
- God told Abimelek he would have to make things right with _____ before he could be _____.
- Once _____ prayed for Abimelek, God forgave him and _____ the curse. (Genesis 20:14-18)

Why did God make Abimelek go to Abraham?

- Sin—even _____ sin—_____ the blessings of God.

- This is why sin requires “____-____-_____”—public reconciliation by addressing the _____ caused by sin between people (and God) (Leviticus 16:15-16)
- Forgiveness without _____ leaves the disruption _____.
- Atoning a relationship lays a foundation for future _____—and _____. (Genesis 21:1, 22-31)

Loving Your Neighbor

- Loving your neighbor means _____ relationships that have been _____ by sin.
- Jesus died on the cross to _____ us—to heal the disruption we have caused so we can all be _____ (and _____). (Romans 3:25-26, Ephesians 2:14-16)
- Following Jesus means _____ our sins and mistakes and seeking ____-____-_____ with our neighbors. (Matthew 5:23-24)

Discussion Questions

1. What did you find most interesting about the sermon this week? The most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
2. Why do you think Abraham didn't learn his lesson about lying? Can you relate to his struggle?
3. In what was Abimelek's mistake a sin? In what was it not?
4. Imagine the conversation between Abimelek and Abraham. What do you think they each were feeling?
5. How do you think Abraham and Abimelek each felt once the curse had been lifted? Had everything been resolved between them?
6. We often judge our own sinfulness by our intentions. How does it change things to judge your sinfulness by its effects? Does that reveal sin you previously didn't acknowledge?
7. Have you ever been in a situation where sins were forgiven without being dealt with? How did it feel? What was the result?
8. What kinds of disruption does sin cause in our neighborhoods?
9. How does Jesus' death on the cross help us address sin in our communities?
10. Why is it hard for us to seek atonement with our neighbors? How can we overcome those obstacles?