

FAITH LESSONS

Genesis 20:1—23:20

Abraham answered, “God himself will provide....” Genesis 22:8a

1. Read Genesis 20. What very specific thing did God promise Abraham and Sarah? (Review Genesis 18:10.) In chapter 20, how do they jeopardize the fulfillment of this promise? How does God intervene? Where have you seen God intervene in your life?

2. Read Genesis 21:1–20. As God promised, Sarah gives birth to a son. How is this birth a supernatural event? (verses 1–2, 5, 7; Romans 4:18–19)

3. Abraham names his son Isaac, which means “he laughs.” Both Abraham and Sarah laughed when God first promised them they would have son (Genesis 17:17; 18:11–15). How is their laughter different now? (vss. 6–7; Psalm 126:2–3)

4. What concerns does Sarah have:
 - a. About Ishmael? (vss. 9–10; see also Genesis 16:12 and Galatians 4:28–29)

 - b. About Abraham’s loyalties? (vss. 10–13; see also Genesis 17:18)

5. Through Sarah’s initiative, Hagar and Ishmael are sent away. How does Abraham respond to this? (verses 11, 14) Write down the ways you see God care for them. (verses 8–21)

6. Read Genesis 21:22–34. Abraham has been living in the Promised Land for about forty years, and now Abimelech, his neighbor, wants to enter into a peace treaty with him. What does this reveal about Abraham’s status in the land? (Genesis 13:2; 14:14–16; 20:7, 14–16) What is the secret of Abraham’s success? (Genesis 21:22)

7. Read Genesis 22. As this chapter opens, what command does God give to Abraham? If you had been Abraham how would you have responded? How does Abraham respond? (vss. 1–3)

8. What does Abraham know about God that carries him through this? (vss. 5, 8, 14; see also Hebrews 11:17–19) What belief about God is at the very foundation of both Abraham’s faith and ours? (Deuteronomy 7:9; Psalm 145:13; Hebrews 11:11)

9. Many centuries later God steps in and provides another substitute—another “lamb” (John 1:29), who dies on this same mountain. What does Jesus’ death accomplish for us? (Isaiah 25:7–8; Colossians 1:22; 2 Timothy 1:10; Hebrews 2:14–15)

10. Read Genesis 23. Abraham has been a constant nomad and has never bought land. For what purpose does he want to buy land now? (23:1–4; 17–20)

11. After thinking about the life of Abraham , how would you define what faith looks like? Compare your answer to the definition in James 2:21–24.

Optional Question

12. Throughout Abraham’s life God has gradually been revealing himself and his character, which is reflected in the following six different Hebrew names of God. What do they mean and what do they reveal about God’s character?

Hebrew Name	Genesis reference	What this name means	What this name says about God’s character
El Elyon	14:18–20, 22		
Adonai Yahweh	15:2, 8		
El Roi	16:13–14		
El Shaddai	17:1		
El Olam	21:33		
Jehovah Jireh	22:8, 14		

What name would you give God that reflects how he has revealed his character to you?