

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

The Book of Genesis

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth - Genesis 1:1

WEEK 6

“Wrong Choices”

Study: Genesis 19:1-11

Reading: Daniel 1:8-21

Memory: Matthew 5:25-44

What Does the Bible Say?

The two angels who had left Abraham and God traveled down to Sodom and were seen by Lot, who was sitting at the gate of the city. In those days, when someone sat at the gate, it normally meant that they had obtained some type of leadership position on the city. Just as Abraham had realized that there was something special about these men, it appears that Lot realized this as well. He went out to meet them and bowed himself as a sign of humility and respect. It was later in the evening so he asked them to turn aside and come into his house for the night. He did not want them to stay in the city too long which became evident when he told them that they could leave early in the morning on the next day. They told him that they didn't want to spend the night at his house, but would stay in the town square for the night. This appears to have been a common custom for travelers to stay in the city square. This meant that in most cities it was probably a safe place for travelers to stay. Lot strongly insisted that the angels stay at his place and they finally gave in. They went to the house of Lot where he made them a feast, and they had dinner together (vs 1-3).

There was a reason that Lot did not want the angels to stay outside overnight, and the reason soon became clear. Before the angels were about to lay down and sleep for the night, the men of Sodom, all the men of Sodom, gathered around Lot's house and asked Lot to send the angels out so that they could commit sexual acts with them. The fact that all the men of Sodom had come to the house reveals the great wickedness of the city. This was not just to be some private act of a few, but they wanted the men to come out and their sexual acts would be a public spectacle. Lot would not send the men out, but went out himself and shut the door behind him. He pleaded with them to leave his guests alone. He knew what these men would want to do to the angels and this fear was so great that he willingly offered for them to take his two daughters who were virgins so they could fulfil their sexual pleasures on his daughters. (The wickedness in this passage is hard for most people to understand, especially in a society

that was founded on moral values.) Lot knew these men were angels and knew the damnation that the city would face because of their acts, but to offer his daughters was not really an act of bravery. He was in a no win situation, but this situation was really his fault. He is the one who chose to live in Sodom, and, even though his capture years before should have been a warning sign to him of the dangers, he chose not to heed the warning. He was now left to face the consequences for his choices and there were no good options for him (vs 4-8).

The wickedness of Sodom was revealed when these men declared that they would rather have sex with two strange men than two virgin women. Some might wonder how minds could be so warped, but in a culture that is sex crazed, boredom with the normal often sets in and they have to continually take the next exotic step. I personally believe that no one is born a homosexual as society wants to teach us. There are some who have stronger attractions to those of the same sex, but in many cases, homosexual tendencies can be traced back to a wrong view of sex or early exposure to sex.

These men told Lot to get out of the way or they were going to do more harm to him than they would do to the strangers who were staying with him. They pushed Lot back towards the door and were about ready to break the door down when the angels opened the door and pulled Lot inside. The angels then caused a blindness to occur to all the men, but this didn't even stop them from trying to get in. (vs 9-11).

How Does this Apply to Me?

2 Peter 2:8 describes Lot as a "righteous man who was tormented in his soul by the wickedness he saw." This is somewhat puzzling since the Old Testament seems to reveal that Lot faced many difficulties as a result of his choice to live in Sodom. You will read later on that Lot and his family had a hard time leaving the city and had to forcibly be pulled out by the angels. Though Scripture never condemns Lot for living in Sodom, the consequences he experienced as a result of choosing to live in the city seem to present a clear message. Lot believed in God and was considered a righteous man, but that does not mean he made all righteous choices. He did seek to spare the angels from humiliation, but at the same time offered his daughters to these wicked men. You can be a person who believes in God and desires to follow Him, but still make many foolish choices which lead to consequences that greatly affect your life. It is vital that you make godly choices each day which can spare you from great problems.

Where was Lot sitting (vs 1)?

Why do you think he was sitting there (vs 1)?

What did Lot do when he saw these men (vs 2)?

What did the angels say they would do (vs 2)?

Why do you think they said this?

Why do you think Lot did not take "No" for an answer (vs 3)?

What did he do for these men (vs 3)?

Who came to the house of Lot that night (vs 4)?

What is emphasized about the people who came (vs 4)?

What did they ask Lot (vs 5)?

What was Lot careful to do (vs 6)?

Why did the men want the two angels to come out (vs 6)?

What did he beg the men not to do (vs 7)?

What did this indicate about their intentions?

What did Lot offer to the men (vs 8)?

How do you think Lot could make such an offer (vs 8)?

What did the men threaten (vs 9)?

What did the angels do (vs 10)?

What happened to the men who were pressing at the door (vs 11)?

How do you think Sodom became so wicked?

“Choices You Make”

Study: Genesis 19:12-29

Reading: Ephesians 5:1-21

Memory: Matthew 5:25-44

When you see someone day after day you often don't realize how much a person changes over time, but when you are away from a person for a while, many times those changes are much more evident.

Today, we are going to see how sinking into sin doesn't happen all at once, but it is easy to sink into it day by day. It appears from the life of Lot that step by step his decisions let him into more and more problems and the loss of many things he held dear.

What Does the Bible Say?

After the men of the city left the house of Lot, the angels turned to Lot and asked him if he had any family in the city. They proceeded to tell Lot that they were going to destroy the city because of the great wickedness that was taking place there. Lot then traveled to the houses of those men who were planning to marry his daughters and attempted to persuade them to leave the city with him because of the imminent destruction. They didn't listen to Lot because they thought it was a joke. They didn't take him seriously (vs 12-14).

As morning was drawing near, the angels told Lot that he needed to take his wife and daughters and get out of the city because destruction would be there shortly. Lot really didn't want to leave. This seems to indicate that Lot and his family had become quite attached to this wicked city. The angels had to grab the hands of Lot and his family and literally force them out of their house (vs 15-16).

The angels took them out of the city and once they were out of the city walls the angels told them to run for their lives. They were not to look back or stop anywhere in the valley. They were to flee to the hills so they would not be destroyed. Lot had a hard time with this command because he had become accustomed to living in the city and the thought of living in the mountains was a difficult one. He asked them if it would be okay if he escaped to a small city named Zoar. The angels said they would

spare that city and allowed Lot to flee there so he would be safe (vs 17-22).

Lot had almost reached the city of Zoar when the sun came up. When he was about there, God caused fire and brimstone to rain down on Sodom and Gomorrah, killing all the inhabitants and destroying the prosperous land that once had made the cities rich. Lot's wife could not resist looking back, and, as she did, she became a pillar of salt (vs 23-26).

That morning Abraham had gone up to the top of a mountain to meet with the Lord. From there, he looked in the direction of Sodom and Gomorrah and saw the smoke that was rising up from the land. For Abraham's sake, God had spared Lot and his daughters, but at the same time had completely destroyed the land and the cities in the region that Lot was living in. This region today, around the Dead Sea, would no longer be considered a well-watered plain. Most likely much of this land became desolate because of the destruction of the cities (vs 27-28).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you see the incredible grace of God? Because of Abraham's love and faithfulness, God chose to deliver Lot even though Lot didn't really want to go. Do you see the attraction and enslavement of sin? Though Scripture does not state it directly, it appears that Lot's wife had a very, very strong attraction to the city. There is a good chance that Sodom was her home city. We are told that the reason she was turned into a pillar of salt was because she looked back. Was she just curious about what was taking place? Was she deeply saddened because she loved the city? We are not fully sure, but the severe punishment of being turned into salt seems to indicate she loved the city. Though Lot is listed as a righteous man, most likely he was strongly influenced by his wife.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for giving you examples to learn from.*
- * *Ask God to show you areas where you are being lulled into the world.*
- * *Praise God for His great grace.*

Thought for the day

What did the angels ask Lot (vs 12)?

What did they say they were going to do (vs 13)?

What did Lot attempt to do (vs 14)?

Why did his attempts fail (vs 14)?

What did the men urge Lot to do (vs 15)?

Did Lot leave right away (vs 16)?

What did the angels have to do (vs 16)?

What was clear about the mercy of God (vs 16)?

What were they instructed to do (vs 17)?

What did Lot ask the angels (vs 18-21)?

How did the angels respond (vs 22)?

What does verse 23 indicate about the time of day?

What did God cause to happen (vs 24)?

What happened to the regions surrounding the cities (vs 25)?

What happened to Lot's wife (vs 26)?

Why do you think God caused this to happen?

Where did Abraham do (vs 27)?

What does this show about the character of Abraham?

What did Abraham see (vs 28)?

What had God done (vs 29)?

“Sad Endings”

Study: Genesis 19:30-38

Reading: I Timothy 6:1-10, Philippians 3:12-21

Memory: Matthew 5:25-44

When I choose to watch a movie, I am hoping to watch a movie with a happy ending. The majority of movies end this way and I prefer it this way. There are some movies that I have watched that have bothered me because, in the end, the main character dies or is mistreated in some way. This leaves me with a “bad taste” in my mouth when the movie is over and I don’t care for this feeling.

Today, we are going to see how the life of Lot, that was at one time so promising, had a very sad ending. Though we can’t control all the circumstances of our lives, we will be reminded how our choices have an affect on how our life turns out.

What Does the Bible Say?

Originally, Lot was afraid to be sent to live in the mountains, but after a short time in Zoar, he became afraid to live there. We are not told why he was afraid in Zoar. Perhaps it was because he saw the wickedness in the city and had learned his lesson from his time in Sodom. Perhaps he had just become a fearful person and was going through great shock after losing all he had. Remember, Lot was a very wealthy man before the destruction of Sodom. He went from being a man who had everything, to a man who had nothing, even losing his wife along the way. Now, Lot and his two daughters were living in a cave. There were many caves in the hills of the Judean wilderness and it was not uncommon for people to live in the caves when they were on the run. Jewish history records many time periods where people dwelt in caves, but in almost every case it was not the ideal lifestyle choice for anyone (vs 30).

It appears that Lot had no intention of moving anywhere else because his daughters started to fear that they would not get married or have children. In those days, singleness and being barren was not looked upon with honor or respect. In order to overcome this problem, they developed a plan which revealed their warped thinking about sexual relations that was most likely developed by growing up in Sodom. The daughters

caused Lot to become drunk on two consecutive nights. Each of the nights, one of the daughters had sexual relations with her father in order to become pregnant. Their plan worked and soon the daughters became pregnant with their father's children. We are not told how Lot responded to this or if he even knew he was the father. What we do know is that this whole messed up situation was a result of Lot's wrong choices and involvement in the world around him (vs 31-36).

The girls both gave birth to baby boys and they called the name of the one Moab and the other one they called Ben-ammi. The descendants of Lot's sons eventually became the Moabite and Ammonite nations who were a constant thorn in the flesh to the nation of Isreal (vs 37-38).

How Does this Apply to Me?

You have seen the lesson from the life of Lot evolving over the last several days, and here, in the last portion of Scripture written about Lot, you see the culmination of all the wrong choices he had made. Lot was a man who once had great wealth, wealth that rivaled Abraham's, and this wealth was clearly a blessing from God. Instead of looking to God, the source of that wealth, and staying close to Him, Lot walked step by step towards the wickedness the system of the world had to offer. He went from the well watered plain towards Sodom to being captured in the city to sitting at the city gates. Though Peter declared that Lot did not like the evil of Sodom, for some reason he chose to live there. Because of those choices, the end of his life did not end so well. You read today how he lived out the rest of his life in fear and relative poverty. We are not told directly, but we can assume that the rest of his life was quite miserable and that he didn't live with much joy. Possessions don't equal happiness, but the type of situation he lived in was not one that would lend itself to fullness of life. All of this could have been avoided if he had learned from the example of Abraham and made better decisions. Abraham didn't just avoid thinking like the world around him. He made his relationship with God a priority in his life. The results speak for themselves. Take time today to think about the decisions you are making. Where are these decisions leading you? If you continue on the path that you are on now, what will be the result years from now?

Suggestions for Prayer

* Thank God for the fullness He gives you when you walk with Him.

Where did Lot move to before the destruction of the cities of the plain (vs 30)?

Why did he choose to leave there (vs 30)?

Where do you think this fear came from?

What did Lot's daughters realize (vs 31)?

What was their plan (vs 32)?

What do you think made them think of this plan?

****It must be remembered that society in those days was much different than today. There are two things that were highly valued. Carrying on a person's name and the value of a woman through her children. Lot had no on to carry on his name and the girls would have felt little value without children.*

How did the girls carry out the plan (vs 33-35)?

What did Lot not know (vs 33-35)?

What was the result of their actions (vs 36)?

What was the name of the first born (vs 37)?

What do you know about the Moabites?

What was the name of the second born (vs 38)?

What do you know about the Ammonites?

****It should be noted that Scripture does not directly rebuke Lot for any of his choices. It appears the main purpose of this passage was informational for the purpose of revealing the beginning of the Moabites and Ammonites. Yet, the actions and choices of Lot give us a great picture of the consequences of the choices that we make on a regular basis. You should look at Lot in disgust, but learn from his example.*

“Human Fear, God’s Grace”

Study: Genesis 20:1-18

Reading: Matthew 5:33-37, Proverbs 6:16-19

Memory: Matthew 5:25-44

What Does the Bible Say?

Though Abraham had basically stayed in the same area near Hebron for much of his time in the land of Canaan, he was nomadic and did travel, often based on finding food for his flocks. We are told he traveled south to the Negeb, and found himself in an area between Kadesh and Shur in the land of Gerar. Living in this area put Abraham at a slight risk because the foreign kings had sovereignty and apparently could take all the beautiful women for themselves. Once again, we see Abraham being dishonest as he stated that Sarah was his sister. This is quite interesting because Sarah could have been pregnant at the time or was just before she became pregnant, and she would have been 90 years old. We are not told exactly why the king would want her, but it must have had something to do with that culture. From the context, it appears that the king desired to have sexual relations with all the women that he could.

Abraham failed his wife by lying about her, but God was protecting her from any defilement. Before Abimelech had a chance to have sexual relations with Sarah, God appeared to him in a dream and warned him not to touch Sarah. Abimelech defended himself to God by declaring that he did not know Sarah was married because Abraham lied. God instructed Abimelech to return Sarah to Abraham and, if he did so, no judgement would come upon him and those he ruled over would be spared (vs 1-7).

Abimelech wasted no time in obeying God and, early the next morning, told his servants about what had taken place. He instructed that Abraham be brought to him. Abimelech questioned Abraham about his actions and wanted to know why he lied. Abraham responded by saying that he feared for his life. He didn’t think Abimelech feared God and was afraid that Abimelech would kill him for his wife. He also attempted to justify his lie by stating that Sarah *was* his sister (she was his half-sister). We are then told that this lie was not a new one. We saw this before when they went to Egypt and we see it here. We are told that this was something that Abraham devised before he traveled from the land of his fathers.

Apparently, from what is said in verse 13, they used this lie many more times. It is interesting to note that God didn’t rebuke Abraham for this lie directly, though the consequences for his actions could have been severe (vs 8-13).

In order to appease the God of Abraham, Abimelech gave Abraham sheep, oxen and servants. He also offered land to Abraham saying that Abraham could live there and use the area to feed his flocks. God then caused the curse to be removed from Abimelech and his people and they were allowed to bear children. God had closed the wombs of Abimelech’s household when he took Sarah, attempting to make her his wife (vs 14-18).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you think it was okay for Abraham to lie? There are Christians who use this passage to say that God blessed Abraham for his lie and so it is okay to lie to help keep yourself safe. Though this may sound good, one thing that is overlooked in the argument is the incredible grace of God. There are times where God will use your wrong choices to bring blessings into your life. At the same time, it is clear that Abraham lied because he was afraid. Though Abraham trusted God in many other areas, this is one area that he struggled in. The same is most likely true of you. There are certain areas where you will find it very easy to trust God, and other areas where fear is constantly a part of your life. Fear reveals a lack of trust in God. As for the lie, we are told in many places in Scripture how it is wrong to lie and that God hates lies. This lie could have corrupted the whole situation and interfered with Sarah’s pregnancy (this was probably right before she became pregnant). The real question about situations that you face when you are tempted to lie is, “Can you trust God to take care of you?”

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Ask God to help reveal to you any of your justifiable sins.*
- * *Praise God because His grace extends beyond our sin.*

Thought for the day

Where did Abraham sojourn to (vs 1)?

What did Abraham declare about his wife (vs 2)?

Why do you think he chose to lie this way?

How did God protect Sarah (vs 3)?

What can you learn about the grace of God from this?

How did Abimelech respond to God (vs 4-5)?

What did God say He had done (vs 6)?

What choice did God give to Abimelech (vs 7)?

Why were the servants of Abimelech afraid (vs 8)?

What questions did Abimelech ask Abraham (vs 9-10)?

What was the explanation that Abraham gave (vs 11)?

Why did Abraham say he was not telling a full lie (vs 12)?

What does verse 13 reveal about why Abraham repeated this lie?

What did Abimelech give to Abraham (vs 14)?

What permission did Abimelech give to Abraham (vs 15)?

What did Abraham do (vs 17)?

What had God done (vs 18)?

Why do you think God would bless Abraham even though Abraham lied and was willing to sacrifice the morality of his wife?

****This is a tough question to answer. There are many thoughts on this, but what this does show is the great mercy of God.*

“God Will Provide”

Study: Genesis 21:1-21

Reading: I Kings 17:1-7

Memory: Matthew 5:25-44

What Does the Bible Say?

The danger that Abraham put Sarah in by lying about her is made very clear in chapter 21. It appears that it was shortly after the incident with Abimelech that she became pregnant with Isaac. God had promised that Sarah would become pregnant and she did. She then gave birth to a son whom they called Isaac, just as God had directed. Abraham was also obedient to God by choosing to have Isaac circumcised eight days after he was born. Sarah was extremely grateful for having a son and knew that this child was a miracle from God. Even though she laughed at the words of God and thought that it was impossible, God was gracious to her and allowed her to have the child that she and Abraham had desired (vs 1-7).

Once the child was weaned (able to fully eat on his own, which took place normally around 2 years old), Abraham threw a great feast to celebrate his child. Though this was a big day for Sarah and Abraham, Sarah saw Ishmael “laughing” which most likely meant he was making fun of Isaac. Ishmael would have been about 17 years old at this time and his actions greatly angered Sarah. Sarah asked Abraham to throw out Hagar and Ishmael from their household because she no longer wanted them to be a part of their lives. It appears that time didn’t heal the problem that Sarah had started years earlier by offering Hagar to Abraham. This is a great reminder to us how our choices to step out on our own without trusting God can have long lasting affects (vs 8-11).

Abraham didn’t want to do this to Ishmael because Ishmael was his son and he loved Ishmael, but at the same time, he loved Sarah. God spoke to Abraham and told him to do what Sarah desired. God promised that He would watch over Ishmael and would make Ishmael a great nation. Early the next morning, Abraham gave some food and water to Hagar and Ishmael and told them that they needed to leave. Naturally, Hagar headed south towards Beersheba which would have been in the direction of Egypt, where she was originally from (vs 12-14).

They were not prepared for a long journey in the hot sun and dry air.

They soon ran out of water and food and reached the point where they thought they were going to die. The dehydration must have hit Ishmael first because Hagar had Ishmael lay down under a bush while she went a distance away because she could not bare watching him die. She herself didn't know if she was going to survive and she began to weep and cry out to God. We are told that God heard the voice of Ishmael and sent an angel to speak to Hagar, but he just spoke to her rather than appearing to her. The angel asked Hagar what was troubling her. This is an interesting question because it was pretty obvious what was wrong. It wasn't that the angel didn't know, but it was a phrase used to emphasize the fact that she did not need to fear. God had heard the cries of Ishmael and God had already provided for their needs. God allowed Hagar to see what she had been missing the whole time. There was a well not too far from where they were which allowed her to get water for herself and Ishmael which spared them both from death. We are not told much more about them, but they settled somewhere in the area and Ishmael grew up into a man and became an expert hunter. Hagar chose a woman from the land of Egypt for Ishmael to marry and the promise that God had made about Ishmael was beginning to be fulfilled (vs 15-21).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you trust God to take care of your needs? God has promised you that if you seek Him, He will provide all that you need. There are times in your life where this provision doesn't seem possible, but God will always keep His Word. It is interesting to note that God had already provided a well and had caused the whole Hagar incident to happen in the vicinity of a well. If you think about this, while you are going through a tough time and begin wondering where God is, He is already actively doing things to deliver you from your situation. It may be hard to trust Him at times, but story after story is given in the Bible to help you see that God keeps His Word. You may have to reach the point where you are at the end of yourself before He provides, but you can trust Him to provide. He will keep His Word to you and He will meet the needs that you have.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Ask God to help you trust Him to meet your needs.*

How does verse 1 reveal that God keeps His promises?

Why is this a simple, yet very important truth?

Why do you think "old age" is mentioned (vs 2)?

What did they name their son (vs 3)? Why?

****The name "Isaac" was the one instructed by God to be given to their son in Genesis 21:3.*

How did Abraham show his obedience to God (vs 4)?

What did Sarah declare about God' faithfulness (vs 6-7)?

What did Abraham do for his young son (vs 8)?

What did Sarah observe (vs 9)?

What did Sarah want Abraham to do (vs 10)?

Why did Abraham not want to do this (vs 11)?

How did God assure Abraham (vs 12-13)?

What did Abraham do (vs 14)?

What did Hagar think was going to happen (vs 15-16)?

What did God hear (vs 17)?

What did the angel tell Hagar no to do (vs 17)? Why would it have been difficult for her not to fear?

What did God do for her (vs 19)?

What happened to Ishmael (vs 20)?

Where did Ismael live (vs 21)?

“Likable”

Study: Genesis 21:22-34

Reading: Genesis 39:1-40:23

Memory: Matthew 5:25-44

When I moved to Michigan I started reffing basketball as a side job. I was amazed how many of the other referees I met seemed to like me and wanted to ref with me. I don't think I was a very good ref, and my knowledge of the rules wasn't that great, but when I told some of them I wasn't going to be reffing too much in the future, they seemed very disappointed. Many expressed their desire to see me around, not only reffing, but in other places, which surprised me. I really don't think that I am that likable or do things that are outstanding. The only thing I can attribute this to is others seeing the Holy Spirit work in me and the fruit that he produces.

Today, we are going to see how Abraham earned favor with many people because God was on his side.

What Does the Bible Say?

Abimelech clearly knew that the hand of God was upon Abraham as he saw how much Abraham prospered. Because of this, he wanted to enter into a covenant with Abraham that would allow their descendants to dwell together in the land in peace. This appears to indicate that Abimelech knew that Abraham's family would become stronger than his and he was out to protect himself and his descendants. He had showed Abraham great kindness by allowing him to live in his land without causing him problems. Remember, Abraham had huge flocks and many servants who lived with him. This was not just a small household, but a whole entourage. Abraham agreed to this covenant and swore with Abimelech that he would deal kindly with him and those who came after him (vs 22-24).

When making this covenant, Abraham did question Abimelech about the well that Abimelech's servants had taken and apparently would not allow Abraham's servants to use. Abimelech said he knew nothing about it and the tone seems to indicate that he would take care of the issue. Abraham entered into this covenant, and, as a sign of it, he gave

Abimelech some of the animals from his flock.

In giving Abimelech part of his flock, he set seven lambs aside as part of a second payment. When Abimelech inquired about this, Abraham indicated that these were for the well that he had dug in the land. This was a type of payment for the land that the well was on and would allow Abraham use of the well without any interference. The significance of this well is that it was called Beersheba. Beersheba meant “well of seven” or “well of the oath.” Beersheba would be referred to in the history of Israel several times and was often used to define the southernmost part of Israel.

Abraham planted a tamarisk tree there to be a reminder of the covenant that had been made. We are also told that Abraham worshiped “the Everlasting God” there by the tree. This seems to indicate the fact that the area of Beersheba would be part of the nation of Israel and the everlasting covenant that God had made with Abraham. From there, Abimelech traveled back to the land of the Philistines, the area he was from (vs 26-34).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Proverbs 16:7 says, “When a man's ways please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.” Obviously, this is a proverb and not a blanket statement that is true all the time. There are times where the enemies of Christ were not at peace with him, nor will they always be at peace with His followers. Yet, as a general principle, when you do what is right, it gives less of a reason for your enemies to hate you. You see this in the life of Abraham where those who could have risen up to fight against Abraham or could have been scared of him, saw God working in His life and welcomed him. The same will generally be true of you if you follow God and the fruit of the Spirit are flowing out of your life. People will want to be around you because you will be uplifting and encouraging to them. You will create many less enemies because your heart will continually be filled with love and kindness. In general, when you follow after God, you will be well liked by many. If you seem to constantly have problems with others, perhaps there are some (or many) areas of your life where you are not emulating Christ. No, you can't be perfect and no, you won't get along with everyone, but in general, if you are living to please God, you will be find favor with others around you.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Thank God for working in you to make you who He wants you to be.*

What did Abimelech recognize about Abraham (vs 22)?

Why do you think led him to this conclusion?

Do you think those around you would come to the same conclusion about your life? Explain.

What covenant did Abimelech want to make with Abraham (vs 23)?

Why do you think Abraham made this agreement (vs 24)?

What did Abraham question Abimelech about (vs 25)?

How did Abimelech respond (vs 26)?

What was given as a sign of their covenant (vs 27)?

What additional animals were sent by Abraham (vs 28)?

Why did Abraham send these (vs 29-30)?

What did they call the place (vs 31)?

Why do you think this part of the narrative is included in the Bible?

****It appears that this was included in Scripture to reveal that this area was bought by Abraham and that this was his well to use. This gives credence to the fact that Israel had a right to the land around Beersheba.*

What does verse 32 reveal about Abimelech (vs 32)?

****The Philistines were most likely descendants of the Phoenicians who built settlements around the Mediterranean sea. Beersheba was around 30 miles from the coast where most of the Philistines dwelled. This is also the first mention of the Philistines in Scripture.*

Why do you think the idea of an “Everlasting God” is mentioned (vs 33)?

Where did Abraham live for a while (vs 34)?

Matthew 5:25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. 26 Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. 27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. 31 “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil. 38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 39 But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. 43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,