

# Goldstone Church

## Small Group Questions

### Genesis 20:1-18

#### For Starting

- If you had this week over again what would you do differently? Explain why?
- What are the best parts about being a part of Goldstone Church?
- What are some of the things that make you afraid? How do you overcome these anxieties?
- What part/s of this Bible passage stand out?

#### For Reviewing

- Where was Abraham living, and where did he move to? (See Genesis 18:1 and Genesis 20:1). See Map over-page. Why did Abraham move?
- How did God speak with Abimelek (v.3)? Who else in the Bible did God speak with in this way?
- Summarise the conversation between God and Abimelek?
- When did Abimelek summon his officials (v.8)? Why?
- Was Sarah Abraham's sister? See Genesis 20:1 and 12.
- What did Abimelek give Abraham (v.14-15)? What was this for (v.16)? Should Abraham have accepted these items?
- What did Abraham do for Abimelek (v.17)? What happened as a result? Do you think this was fair?

#### For Discussion

- Why does the Bible describe the sins and failures of the people used by God? What can we learn from them?
- What did Abraham lose by telling a lie?
- "*A lighthearted admission of sin is not the same as a brokenhearted confession of sin*". Do you agree/disagree? Why or why not?
- What would you have said if Abimelek had asked you to pray for his salvation?
- You could end by reading together Genesis 20:17.

## Genesis 20:1-18 (NIVUK)

### Abraham and Abimelek

<sup>1</sup> Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar, <sup>2</sup> and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." Then Abimelek king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her.

<sup>3</sup> But God came to Abimelek in a dream one night and said to him, "You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman."

<sup>4</sup> Now Abimelek had not gone near her, so he said, "Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation? <sup>5</sup> Did he not say to me, 'She is my sister,' and didn't she also say, 'He is my brother'? I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands."

<sup>6</sup> Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against me. That is why I did not let you touch her. <sup>7</sup> Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all yours will die."

<sup>8</sup> Early the next morning Abimelek summoned all his officials, and when he told them all that had happened, they were very much afraid. <sup>9</sup> Then Abimelek called Abraham in and said, "What have you done to us? How have I wronged you that you have brought such great guilt upon me and my kingdom? You have done things to me that should never be done." <sup>10</sup> And Abimelek asked Abraham, "What was your reason for doing this?"

<sup>11</sup> Abraham replied, "I said to myself, 'There is surely no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.' <sup>12</sup> Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not of my mother; and she became my wife. <sup>13</sup> And when God caused me to wander from my father's household, I said to her, 'This is how you can show your love to me: Everywhere we go, say of me, "He is my brother."'"

<sup>14</sup> Then Abimelek brought sheep and cattle and male and female slaves and gave them to Abraham, and he returned Sarah his wife to him. <sup>15</sup> And Abimelek said, "My land is before you; live wherever you like."

<sup>16</sup> To Sarah he said, "I am giving your brother a thousand shekels of silver. This is to cover the offence against you before all who are with you; you are completely vindicated."

<sup>17</sup> Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelek, his wife and his slave girls so they could have children again, <sup>18</sup> for the Lord had closed up every womb in Abimelek's household because of Abraham's wife Sarah.

