

Genesis 20 Community Group Discussion Questions

Opening Question: What is your favorite board game or one you'd like to try?

Tell them: This week we saw Abraham tell another half-truth about his wife, this time to King Abimelech, in order to save himself. After the king took Sarah as a concubine, he found out she was really married to Abraham. God spoke to Abimelech in a dream and told him what was going on. In the end, he released Sarah. She was not defiled, and Abimelech gave Abraham animals, servants, property and money.

Ask them: *What did we encounter about God and humanity in this chapter? (ex. God can speak to anyone. God will hold up His covenant. Everyone sins.)*

Tell them: In this chapter we saw Abraham dealing with the repeated sin of thinking he had to protect himself by telling a half-truth. **Ask them:** *What happens when we fail to deal with our sin? (we repeat it. We receive consequences as do others around us.)*

Tell them: *Pastor Michael said, "A half-truth is a whole lie." What do you think he meant by that?*

Ask them: *Why are half-truths so natural for us to speak? What is our goal in telling white lies?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael said that acknowledging sin and hating sin are two different things. **Ask them:** *What do you think that means? (Hatred of sin leads to repentance.) How do we treat our sin when we don't hate it but just acknowledge it?*

Ask them: *William James said, "For him who confesses, shams are over, and realities have begun." What do you think that means?*

Tell them: Much of our sin is the result of trying to either protect ourselves from others or prove ourselves to others. **Ask them:** *Would you agree that is true in your life? (think of the sins of worry, fights, dissension, revenge, etc)*

Tell them: Pastor Michael said that God lovingly allows sinners to sow a bitter crop. How can bitter crops be a loving allowance from God?

Tell them: Let's remind ourselves of Hebrews 12:6: "*For the Lord disciplines the one he loves and chastises every son he accepts.*" 12:7 *Endure your suffering as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is there that a father does not discipline?*

As believers in the son of God our sins affect us greatly and the world around us as well. Pastor Michael said, "Sin affects our R.E.P." **Ask them:** *Do you remember what R.E.P. stands for?*

1. **Loss of Reputation (personal character)**
2. **Loss of Example (public testimony)**
3. **Loss of Position (professional ministry)**

Ask them: *In what ways can our sin impact our reputation, example or position?*

Tell them: Much of our sin stems from the fear of man. Pastor Michael said, "Fear of man and faith in God cannot exist simultaneously." "*The fear of people becomes a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord will be set on high.*" (Prov. 29:25)

Ask them: *What kind of fears can control you and the things you think and do?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael asked, "How do we move from the wrong side of the bench to the right side?" **Ask them:** *Do you remember what his answer to that question was? (CONFESSION) Why does confession restore us?*

Ask them: *What about sins keeps us from bringing it into the light? Pastor Michael suggests it is because we don't want to suffer. What do you think about that? Do you have experiences that back that up?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael said: "Our justification is not undone by our sin or struggle within ourselves. That struggle is called our sanctification. That's where the discipline happens." **Ask them:** *Why would you say that we become less worried about what the world thinks of us when we are rooted in our faith in God instead of our fear of man and we are quick to confess?*

God loves to show you His loyal love.

Ask them: *Do you remember how Pastor Michael said we could Improve our R.E.P.?*

1. Tell less half-truths. **Ask them:** *Why do we tell half-truths or white lies? How can we help ourselves tell fewer?*
2. Fear man less. **Ask them:** *What are some ways to help us fear man less? (See Galatians 1:10)*
3. Confess more. **Ask them:** *How different would your life be if you confessed more? How would your confession become an example to your family and friends?*
4. Ask God for more faith. The disciples knew they needed God to increase their faith. See Luke 17:5. **Ask them:** *What things do you fear God will not provide for you which can lead to sin in your life? We are self-defensive because we don't understand that we have a father who is loyal and loving. God sanctifies us until we get it. Micah 7:18 says, "There is no other God like you! You forgive sin and pardon the rebellion of those who remain among your people. You do not remain angry forever, but delight in showing loyal love. 7:19 You will once again have mercy on us; you will conquer our evil deeds; you will hurl our sins into the depths of the sea. 7:20 You will be loyal to Jacob and extend your loyal love to Abraham, which you promised on oath to our ancestors in ancient times."*

Ask them: *Do you keep making the same mistake over and over again like Abraham? If so, how can we pray for you?*

Tweetable moments and quotes

1. Fear of man and faith in God cannot exist simultaneously.
2. Your justification through Christ is cannot be undone by your sin or struggle within yourself.
3. We get self-defensive because we don't remember that we have a Father who is loyal and loving.