

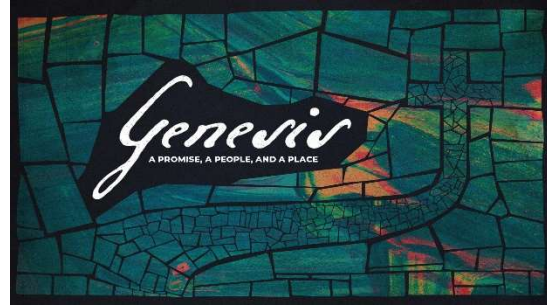
# Sermon Discussion Guide

**Date:** February 18, 2024

**Text:** Genesis 20-21

**Preacher:** Brad

**Link to Sermon:** [Click Here](#)



## SUMMARY

*Title: Conduits of Grace*

Genesis 21:1-7 informs us of the miraculous and long-awaited birth of the promised son, Isaac. Though a mere 7 verses, this birth changes everything, especially as it relates to Abraham being God's means through which He will bring salvation blessing to the nations. Abraham's status, calling, and mission was given to him by God, and it is not unique to him. That mission is shared by all who are his children, heirs of the promises by faith in Christ. In chapter 20 Abraham seemingly fails miserably, grace is needed both for him and Abimelech. With the birth of Isaac, grace is supplied and received by Abraham and Sarah demonstrated by obedience and laughter (rejoicing). By contrast, Ishmael laughs (rejecting/mockingly) at the grace of God, and is sent away to the wilderness. For Abraham, grace being supplied and received transforms his heart and his approach to mission, with the concluding picture of Abraham initiating and paying what is the terms of a peace covenant with Abimelech. How does grace inform mission?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Opener.** Being "detail-oriented" is virtuous in most settings, as it's frequently included on resumes. When can focusing on the details go too far?

What is God's "main point" for why he created all things, sent his Son, and saved you?

Can you think of a time when the minutia and details of life eclipsed the main point for you?

**Read Genesis 20:1-18** (Grace Needed)

1. Retell the story in your own words.
2. In what ways do you see the need for grace in this story?
3. How would you evaluate Abraham's evangelistic efforts? What fuels his actions?
  - a. What do you see in Abraham that you also see in yourself, and therefore your need for grace?

**Read Genesis 21:1-7** (Grace Supplied and Received)

4. How is the birth of Isaac miraculous, yet also fully expected?
5. What fruit does grace produce in Abraham and Sarah, and in all who receive the Grace of God in His promised Son?

**Read Genesis 21:8-21** (Grace Rejected)

6. Why are Ishmael and Hagar sent away?
7. How does these verses relate to the Jews of Jesus' day? (see John 8:39-47; Galatians 4:21-31)

**Read Genesis 21:22-34** (Grace Applied)

8. How is this similar to chapter 20?
9. How is this story different from chapter 20? How do the main differences show an application of grace?
10. How does this relate to your own participation in the mission of God?

Who is 1 person God has placed in your life, that you are praying for the Lord to save? What does faithful stewardship of God's gospel of grace look like for you in that relationship?