

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: The Creation: Our Special Place in the World

TEXT: Genesis 1:1 --2:3

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

Have you ever been involved in a discussion about creation? Do you wonder why this first chapter of Genesis generates so much controversy and what it is really meant to teach? This study will help you understand the author's purpose in writing and what his message taught Israel about their God, his creation and their special place in the natural world. It will also help you to consider how this account is relevant today. Remember that Genesis 1, like other books in the Bible, describes natural events in popular and nontechnical language. It reports them as they appear to the average person without explaining exactly how they took place. The emphasis is on the who and why, the Creator and his purposes in creation.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 1:1 --2:3. As you read the passage, what words and phrases do you find repeated?
2. Describe in your own words how the earth appears at the outset (v. 1-2).
3. In what ways do God's creative commands during the first three days add form to the formless earth (v. 3-13)?
4. How do God's commands during the next three days add fullness to the empty earth (v. 14-25)?
5. In what ways do you think God views his creation as being good (v. 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25)?
6. The creation account reveals that God brings order, beauty and harmony out of an originally chaotic situation. In what areas do you need to trust God to produce these qualities in your life?
7. In what ways are man and woman unique among God's creation (v. 26-27)?
8. What special commands and provisions does God give to the man and woman in his creation (v. 28-31)?
9. Verse 26 states that the man and woman are made in the image and likeness of God. What similarities are there between God's own work in creation and the commands and responsibilities he gives to the man and woman?
10. How is the seventh day unique, different from the other six (2:1-3)?
11. As you look around at God's creation, how does it give you a greater appreciation for the Creator?
12. In light of what you have learned about God in this study, how can you practically reflect his image during the next seven days?

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INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: Adam and Eve: life As God Intended It

TEXT: Genesis 2:4-25

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

For of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: "It might have been!"

These words take on special significance when we consider life as God originally intended it. Genesis 2 still provides the basis for understanding who we were meant to be in relation to God, nature and each other. This narrative is different from the first in both content and style. It quickly moves from the world at large to the narrow stage of "a garden in the east." The literary style also changes significantly with its more colorful and detailed descriptions. Yet it continues to be historical, rather than parable or myth, as it supplements the brief account of the creation of man and woman in chapter 1:26-30.

QUESTIONS

1. Describe the condition of the earth at the outset of this account and compare it with the description in Chapter 1:2.
2. The author describes the creation of man in verse 7. In what ways is his creation unique? What does this account add to the statement of 1:27?
3. What are we told about the garden God has prepared for Adam (v. 8-14)?
4. What responsibility, freedom and limitation does God give to the man (v. 15-17)? What does each of these reveal about the life God originally intended for us?
5. Note the social dimension of being created in the image of God (v. 18). What implications does this have for your relationships with other people?
6. What does Adam's assignment of naming the living creatures reveal about himself and his relationship to them (v. 19-20)?
7. What is the significance of the terms the author uses to describe the creation of the woman (v. 21-22)?
8. How does Adam's name for his new partner reflect his appreciation of her (v. 23)?
9. Explain in your own words what verse 24 teaches about marriage. What light does verse 25 shed on the relationship between the man and his wife?
10. How has this passage helped you understand who you were created to be in relation to God, nature and other people?

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INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: The First Sin: How Can We Deal with Temptation?
TEXT: Genesis 3

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

If God is good and powerful, why does he allow so much evil and pain? Although the Bible doesn't answer this question directly, it shows how sin and its consequences entered the world. The last chapter left Adam and Eve in Eden at peace with God, themselves and the natural world over which they had been given stewardship. They had the freedom to fulfill this responsibility and eat any fruit in the garden, with one exception. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil would be the test of their obedience to the Creator. In this study we see how they met this test and what lessons we can learn from their experience.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 3. The serpent is described as "more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made" (v. 1). How does the serpent's question to the woman, especially its wording, illustrate his craftiness?
2. How does Eve's answer misrepresent God's command (v. 2-3)? What could this reveal about her attitude toward this prohibition?
3. In what ways do we tend to make God's commands more restrictive than he intends them to be?
How does this affect our view of his requirements?
4. The serpent now becomes more direct (v. 4-5). What statements does he make about the purpose and results of the command? In what ways does Satan try to deceive us today about the consequences and benefits of sin?
5. How have the serpent's words distorted Eve's thinking (v. 6)? What pros and cons does she face in the decision which now confronts her?
6. How did Adam and Eve's sin immediately affect their attitude toward themselves, each other and God (v. 7-13)?
7. Adam and Eve made several mistakes: they listened to a creature instead of the Creator, followed their own impressions against his instructions, doubted God's concern for their best interests and made self-fulfillment their goal. In what situations have any of these led you to disobey a command of God?
8. What judgments does the Lord God pronounce on the serpent (v. 14-15), the woman (v. 16) and the man (v. 17-19)? (Describe them in your own words.)
9. What actions does God finally take to end this era in Eden (v. 21-24)?
10. What one lesson have you learned from this study that can help you recognize and resist a temptation you are facing?

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INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: Cain and Abel: Attitudes and Reactions to Sin

TEXT: Genesis 4 --5

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

A Lutheran bishop in East Germany who suffered persecution first by the Nazis and then the Communists declared: "When God is not God, man is no man!" He had seen how the rejection of divine authority inevitably led to inhuman actions. In the previous chapter Adam and Eve's disobedience to God fracture their relationship with him. Now we see sin spreading to family relationship as hateful attitudes lead to violent actions.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 4. What do we learn about Cain and Abel in verses 1-2?
2. Why do you think the Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering but not on Cain and his offering (w. 3-7)? What explanation and counsel does the Lord give to Cain (v. 6-7)?
3. How does verse 7 illustrate the nature of sin and our response to it?
How does Cain's failure to master his sin (v. 8) stress the seriousness of the conflict?
What resources do we have to master sin?
5. The Lord confronts Adam, Eve and Cain with their sin by using a question (3:11, 13; 4:9-10). What might be some of the reasons for this approach?
6. In what way is Cain's punishment (w. 10-16) a logical consequence of his sin? How have you experienced God's judgment as a logical result of a wrong action?
7. How do Lamech's attitude and action expressed in his taunting song: beyond that of Cain's (w. 23-24)?
8. The lifestyle of Cain's family is a picture of humanity --technical progress matched by moral decline. How do you see this trend reflected in our own civilization?
9. How has this chapter helped you to understand the nature and consequences of sin?
10. If time permits, scan chapter 5 to trace the line from Seth (4:25-2) Noah, the subject of next week's study.

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INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: The Flood: Two Lifestyles and Their Results

TEXT: Genesis 6 --7

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

Does it really make much difference how we live? Good so often goes unrewarded while evil persists without punishment. No wonder that we find life so perplexing. Even though these chapters don't answer all our questions, they show that eventually God's justice becomes evident in human affairs. The last chapter recorded how sin became more flagrant in Cain's family. Now the author describes the spread of this moral cancer throughout the human race. He contrasts two radically different ways of living and their results.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 6. When the Lord looks at the human condition in the time of Noah, what does he see? What words in verses 5 and 11 emphasize the extent of this wickedness?
2. How has God's attitude toward creation changed since the beginning (1:31; 6:6-7, 11-13, 17)?
3. From recent newspaper headlines or front-page stories illustrate any ways our civilization resembles the one in which Noah lived.
4. How is Noah different from his contemporaries (6:9; 7:1)?
5. What provisions does God make for Noah and for the various living creatures to preserve life after the flood (v. 14-22)?
6. Read 7:1-16. How do you think Noah and his family feel during the long months of building the ark on dry land, rounding up all the living creature and embarking with them?
7. In what situations have you felt embarrassed because of your obedience to God? How can you be encouraged and challenged by the obedience of Noah?
8. Read 7:17-24. What details are given about the flood and its results?
9. What do chapters 6 and 7 reveal about the severity and grace of God?
10. The New Testament compares the severe judgment in the days of Noah with the judgment that will be poured out at the return of Christ. How can you urge those around you to seek refuge in Christ?

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: **The Rainbow: God's Promises for the Future**
TEXT: **Genesis 8:1 --9:17**

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

How do you feel when you see the long-awaited fulfillment of a God's promises? Perhaps your response is similar to that of Noah and his family. In the previous study we saw them safe within the ark as the flood destroyed all life on earth and eventually covered the mountains. Now we see how God fulfills his promises to them and how Noah's response can be an example to us today.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 8. Noah and his family were in the ark a little more than a year (7:1; 8:13-14). Put yourself in their place and describe how you would feel from the time God shut the door until he said, "Come out of the ark."
2. What do we learn about God's concern for the passengers of the ark and his activity to end the flood (verse 1-5)?
What initiative does Noah take during this period (v. 6-12)?
3. How does his example help us to understand what our responsibility may be during a period when we are depending on God to work?
4. Noah's first action after emptying the ark is to offer a sacrifice to God (v. 20). What does this reveal about his priorities amid the pressure of urgent tasks calling for immediate attention?
5. What aspect of Noah's example --his obedience, faith, courage, endurance--is most meaningful to you in a situation you are facing?
6. How does the Lord respond to Noah's sacrifice (v. 21-22)?
7. Why is his promise especially remarkable against the backdrop of the flood?
8. Read Genesis 9:1-17. What commission does God now give Noah and his family (v. 1-7)? How is it similar to and different from the original command given to Adam in 1:27-30?
9. What do the specific prohibitions given by God reveal about this new beginning for the human family?
10. In verses 8-17 God makes a covenant as unconditional as it is underserved. What do we learn about the extent and purpose of this first covenant? How is the sign of the rainbow especially appropriate to the promise?
11. How has God's grace been evident throughout this passage? How has his grace been evident in your life lately?
12. Spend time in prayer, thanking God for his grace to us who deserve his judgment.

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INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: **The Tower of Babel: Problems in Family and Society**

TEXT: **Genesis 9:18 --11:32**

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

A recurring problem in every generation is self-centered disrespect for authority, both human and divine. This attitude continued after the flood in Noah's own family, then on a larger scale in society. In the previous study we saw that Noah's new commission was similar to the one given to Adam. Now we see how sin again spreads from father to son to succeeding generations in both the private and public realms as self-indulgence generates waves of evil in ever-widening circles.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 9:18-29. Describe what happens in the brief story of Noah and his three sons (v. 20-23).
2. In what ways does Ham's conduct dishonor his father? How do his actions contrast with those of his brothers (v. 23)?
3. What curse does Noah pronounce on Canaan (Ham's son) and his descendants (v. 24-28)?
4. In what specific ways do families today suffer from a disrespect for parent and animosity among the children?
5. Scan Genesis 10, which traces the descendants of Shem, Ham Japheth What interesting facts does this chapter reveal about the spread of human! after the flood? (Note especially v. 5, 8-15, 25.)
6. Read Genesis 11:1-9. What action do the people of Babel take, and what is their motive? How does this project relate to God's instructions to Noah's family in 9:1?
7. It is amusing that the Lord must come down (v. 5) to see this tower that will reach to the heavens. What is his reaction (v. 5-9)? How does his countermove specifically deal with the people's sin?
8. In the Bible this city, also known as Babylon, came increasingly to symbolize godless society, whose sins reach up to heaven. Why must all human efforts to achieve world unity fall short of what God desires?
9. Read Genesis 11:10-32, which traces the line from Shem to Abraham. Why do you think the author is beginning to shift from all the families of the earth to one family?
10. How do the first eleven chapters of Genesis emphasize the need for God to save the people of the earth?

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INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: **Abram's Call: Following God into the Unknown**
TEXT: **Genesis 12 --13**

Directions: - You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.

Suppose God called you to leave all that is familiar --your home, family, friends --and follow him into another part of the country or world with a radically different lifestyle. How would you feel as you said good-bye and moved out into the unknown? In this study we see how Abram responds to such a call and how his faith matures.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 12. What command and promise does the Lord give to Abram (v. 1-3)? What effects will this new relationship have on his family and on future generations?
2. Describe in your own words what is involved for Abram and his family to leave their homes and relatives (v. 4-5).
3. What additional promise and encouragement does God give to Abram, he arrives in Canaan (v. 6-9)?
4. Has God ever called you to leave a familiar and secure situation for something unfamiliar and frightening? Explain. What guidance, help or encouragement did the Lord give you?
5. How does Abram's scheming about himself and Sarai evidence a faith (v. 10-16)?
6. What lesson could Abram have learned from God's intervention (17:20)?
7. Describe a time when you took matters into your own hands instead of trusting in God's faithfulness. What were the results for others involved?
8. Read Genesis 13. Describe the problem which arises between Abram and Lot (v. 1-7).
9. Abram, as the older man, has the right to choose the best land. How does his action here demonstrate a greater confidence in God's promise to take care of him (v. 8-13)?
10. What renewed and expanded promises does the Lord give to Abram (v. 14-17)? Why do you think the Lord chooses this moment to speak to him?
11. How can Abram's experiences in chapters 12 and 13 encourage] entrust your needs more fully to God?

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: Conflict and Covenant: Tests of Faith

TEXT: Genesis 14 --15

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

If you want your faith to increase, don't be surprised or disheartened over difficulties which demand faith. The muscles of faith grow strong through training and testing that is sometimes painful. Abram continues to learn this lesson after parting from his nephew Lot. In this study we see Abram's trials and the resources God provides to help him meet the challenge and perse

QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 14. What political and military situation is described in w. 1-4, and how is it similar to today?
2. Describe the battle and its results for Lot and his family (v. 5-12).
3. Since Abram lived in tents away from the cities, his people were not involved in this military campaign. When he learns of Lot's capture, what strategy does Abram devise (v. 13-16)?
4. Who is Melchizedek and what does he do (w. 18-20)? How does his blessing help Abram to put this victory in proper perspective?
5. What is the reason for Abram's reaction to the generous offer made by king of Sodom (v. 21-24)?
6. What evidence do you find of Abram's growing confidence in God?
In what practical ways can Abram's example encourage us to depend on faithfulness?
7. Read Genesis 15. What is Abram's main problem at this point, and does he propose to solve it (v. 2-3)?
8. How would God's message to Abram at this point renew his confidence (v. 1, 4, 5)?
9. Verse 6 is the first time we read that Abram believes the Lord. Explain in your own words what it means that his faith is credited to him as righteous
10. In verses 7-21 the Lord forms a covenant with Abram. What additional promises does he make here?
11. If you have ever had to wait a long time for God to fulfill a promise, what did you learn in the process about yourself, the Lord and his way of working with you?

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: Ishmael and Isaac: Faith Falters and Is Renewed

TEXT: Genesis 16 --17

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

Do you ever get tired of waiting for God to act? Do you some wonder whether your faith is simply foolishness? At such times it is tea to become an activist. "If God won't help me, I'll do it myself" As this passage opens, we find that Sarai and Abram are frustrated I passing of years without a son. Taking matters into their own hand devise their own strategy for "fulfilling" God's promise.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 16. Ten years have passed since Abram and Sarai a Canaan, yet there is still no sign of the son God promised. What action does Sarai now suggest (v. 1-2)? Why do you think Abram acquiesced in this arrangement?
2. Sarai and Abram's action seems strange to us, but it was an acceptable custom in ancient Near Eastern culture. Yet how might their action i a lack of faith?
3. How can impatience with God's timetable and way of working lead us to unbelief and even disobedience?
4. After Hagar conceives, how do the relationships among the three main characters change (w. 4-6)?
5. Hagar flees to the wilderness of Shur on the northeast frontier of Egypt, her native land. What promises and encouragement does the angel give to her (v. 7-12)?
6. What does Hagar learn about the Lord through this traumatic experience (v. 13-14)?
7. Have you ever gone through a difficult time in which you gained new insight into God's concern for you? Explain.
8. Read Genesis 17. In verses 1-8 "God Almighty" appears to Abram and, ironically, changes his name from *Abram* ("exalted father") to *Abraham* ("faof many"). What covenant promises does the Lord reiterate in these verses?
9. What command does God give to Abraham as an outward sign of covenant (v. 9-14)?
10. What specific promises does God make about Sarai (v.15-16)? Why do you think these promises cause Abraham to fall down with laughter (v.17-18)?
11. In verse 18 Abraham expresses his concern about Ishmael. Ho God respond to Abraham's request (v. 19-22)?
12. How did Abraham fulfill his responsibility in the covenant (v. 23-37)?
13. What have we learned about God in this chapter to help us be promises in spite of our circumstances?

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INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: Sodom and Gomorrah: God's Judgment on Society
TEXT: Genesis 18 --19

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

Contemporary Christianity has been described as "privately engaging but socially irrelevant." Many of us concern ourselves only with family and church to the neglect of the broader arenas of work and community --the economic, social and political fabric of our society. So far we have seen Abraham wrapped up in his personal and family concerns. But in this passage he broadens his perspective. He becomes involved in the problems of a neighboring city whose lifestyle is the antithesis of everything he stands for. Abraham's reaction to the news of impending judgment can instruct us today concerning responsible Christian action in our own society.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 18. In verses 1-8 what elements of hospitality does Abraham show even to visiting strangers?
2. Why do you think Sarah reacts as she does to the Lord's renewed promise of a son (v. 9-12)? How might the Lord's response to Sarah's laughter be both a rebuke and an encouragement (v. 13-15)?
3. Why does the Lord decide to tell Abraham about his decision to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah (v. 16-19)?
4. In the long conversation that follows (v. 20-33), what do you learn about Abraham's attitude toward the wicked cities and toward the Lord? How would you describe the Lord's attitude toward the cities and his relationship with Abraham?
5. In what areas could we intercede with God for our city, state or because of its sins? How might this kind of prayer affect our attitudes and actions toward those around us?
6. Read Genesis 19. In this chapter we get a close look at the people in Sodom. How do their actions help us understand why they were under God's judgment?
- 7- In what ways is our society similar to Sodom?
8. What kind of person does Lot appear to be at this time (v. 1-14)? What effects does life in Sodom seem to have had on him and the members of his family?
9. How is the Lord's mercy evident in his treatment of Lot and his family (v. 10-22)?
10. Describe how God's judgment works out in Sodom and in Lot's family (v. 23-38).
11. What can we do to avert the judgment of God on ourselves and those around us?

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL
INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: **Political & Family Crises The Consequences of Unbelief**
TEXT: **Genesis 20 --21**

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

Have you ever gotten into trouble because you didn't trust God to take care of you? Did you take matters into your own hands and in the cut some moral or ethical corners? If so, you have company. Even! gave in to his fears and failed to tell the truth in a potentially dangerous situation. The Bible has no plaster saints. It doesn't cover over the s heroes. So we can learn from their *failures* as well as their success. In the previous study we saw Abraham at his best as he showed, for a sinful city. In this study we find him near his worst as he pursues; of action with potentially disastrous consequences for everyone concerned.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 20. Describe Abraham's situation and how God deal with it (v.1:7). How does God's conversation with Abimelech show his concern for those who are outside his covenant relationship?
2. What do the questions Abimelech asks the next day reveal about his attitude toward Abraham (v. 8-10)?
3. How does the patriarch try to explain his way out of this difficulty (v. 11-13)?
What potential consequences did Abraham's deception have for Sarah, for their promised son and for Abimelech's family?
4. From Abimelech's actions how would you describe his character (v. 14-16)?
5. In what way is Abraham's stature restored in the finale of this story (v. 17-18)?
6. Think of a difficult situation in which fear or unbelief led you to a course of action that didn't honor God. What were the consequences and lessons you learned?
7. Read Genesis 21. The name *Isaac* means "he laughs." Describe Sarah's reaction and how she feels after waiting so long for this joyful event (v. 1-5). How can Sarah and Abraham's experience encourage us to be more pal and faithful in waiting for unanswered prayer?
8. What problem does Abraham face in verses 8-14, and how is it resolved
9. How does God help and encourage Hagar in her hour of crisis (v.15-21)?
10. What does Abimelech's request show about his attitude toward Abram (v. 22-34)?
11. Review the ways in which God was gracious and faithful to the characters in this story. How can God's grace and faithfulness motivate you to trust him the next time you are tempted toward doubt and disobedience?

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: The Sacrifice of Isaac: Ultimate Faith and Obedience
TEXT: Genesis 22 --23

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

Suppose God asked you to give up someone or something at the very center of your life --a loved one, your home, profession or plans for the future. How would you respond? In this study we walk with Abraham through such a valley of testing. He comes to the climax of his career as he faces a soul-shattering event. Abraham's experience can teach us how God provides for those who honor him with such faith and obedience.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 22. In God's command to Abraham what phrases emphasize the magnitude and painfulness of this sacrifice (v. 1-2)?
2. Describe some of the thoughts and emotions you would have if you were Abraham.
3. What do the details of the narrative reveal about Abraham's response to this incredibly difficult situation (v. 3-10)?
4. At the crucial moment how does God intervene (v. 11-12)?
5. In verse 12 the Lord says, "Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Based on Abraham's example, what do you think it means to fear God?
6. How does God's provision for Abraham in verses 13-14 fulfill the confidence he expressed earlier (v. 5, 8)?
7. Have you ever faced a situation in which obedience to God required you to give up someone or something you loved? Explain. How did the Lord provide for your needs?
8. In verses 15-18 the Lord reiterates his promises to Abraham. an especially appropriate time to do this? 9- Read Genesis 23. When Abraham decides to bury Sarah among the Hittites, how do they react to his first request (v. 1-6)?
10. What steps does Abraham go through to observe the laws of the land (w. 7-16)?
11. As a resident alien Abraham would have many rights, but not that of owning land. Why do you think he persists in his desire to own the burial plot?
12. At the time of Sarah's death, she and Abraham had not seen the fulfillment of most of God's promises. How was her burial a silent testimony to their future fulfillment (w. 17-19)?
13. How can these two chapters encourage us to trust God when we still don't see the fulfillment of some important promises?

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: A Wife for Isaac: God's Guidance and Care

TEXT: Genesis 24:1 --25:11

Directions: - *You should read and re-read the passage(s). You must know what the passages say before you can understand what it means and how it applies to you. Be ready to share constructively, what God is teaching us in the passages. Be careful not to dominate the discussion. By all means participate! But allow others to have equal time. The teacher will not be lecturing, but will formulate diverse questions in order to dig deeper into each of the questions and would encourage people to discuss before he gives his biblical views of it.*

How do you go about discovering God's will in a specific situation? When you think you understand his will, do you simply wait for it a work toward its fulfillment? Although the Bible gives no formulas i prints, it does illustrate certain principles we can apply. In this study & continues to wind up his affairs by arranging for the sure succession of his line. Here we have the fascinating story of the way he went about s the right wife for his son Isaac.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 24:1-27. What main concerns are evident in Abraham's commands to his servant (v. 1-9)?
2. As the servant arrives at Nahor he offers the first prayer for person guidance recorded in the Bible. What does he specifically ask of God (v12-14)?
3. Several characteristics of Rebecca are noted in verses 15-25. Describe in your own words the kind of person she seems to be.
4. What does the servant's prayer in verses 26-27 reveal about his own rewith God?
5. Read verses 28-67. How does the servant's account in verses 33-49 reveal his excitement and awe at the Lord's guidance?
6. The servant had not asked for a vision or miraculous event but for guidance through clear signs in natural circumstances. When has God guided you in this way?
7. How does Rebecca's family react to these sudden, unexpected events (v. 50-53)?
8. In what way is Rebecca involved in the decision to go with the servant (v. 54-60)?
9. Describe the return of Rebecca with her servant and what her arrival have meant to Isaac (v. 61-67).
10. Read Genesis 25:1-11. What do we learn about Abraham's final year?
11. How would you sum up his life in one sentence?
12. What is the most important lesson you have learned from studying life of Abraham?