**Abraham and Abimelech**

**A Bible Story From**

**Genesis 20:1-18**

**Bible Story Number: 1010240**

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**Abraham and Abimelech**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

God told Abram (Abraham) to leave his country and go to the place God would show him. Abram obeyed.

God made a profound promise to Abram (called a covenant):

I will bless you and make you the father of a great nation.

I will make you famous throughout history.

I will protect your allies and punish your enemies.

I will bless the entire world through your descendants.

This story mentions an area called the Negev. This is in south central Israel today.

**Story from the Bible**

**Genesis 20:1-18**

This is what the Bible says.

After God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham moved to the region of the Negev. He stayed in a town called Gerar. The king in that region was named Abimelech. Abraham told the people living there that Sarah was his sister. Abimelech, the king, sent for Sarah and took her.

God came to Abimelech in a dream one night. God told him he was as good as dead because the woman he had taken was a married woman. Abimelech had not gone near her. (By the way, she was over 90 years old.) He pleaded with God, asking if He would destroy an innocent nation. Abimelech said that Abraham had said she was his sister and Sarah had said that Abraham was her brother. Abimelech said, “I did this with a clear conscience and clean hands.”

As Abimelech’s dream continued, God told him that He knew that Abimelech had taken Sarah without knowing that she was married. So God had kept Abimelech from sinning against Himself by not letting Abimelech touch her. God told him to return Sarah to Abraham. He told him that Abraham was a prophet and that Abraham would

pray for him and that he would live. God warned Abimelech that if he did not return Sarah to Abraham, he would surely die along with all his family.

Early the next morning Abimelech called together all his officials. He told them what had happened, and they were all afraid. Then Abimelech called Abraham in and said, “What have you done to us? How did I sin against you that you have brought such enormous guilt on me and on my kingdom? You have done things to me that should never be done.” He asked him why he had done it.

Abraham answered him. He said that there was no fear of God in this place and he was afraid that they would kill him. He said, “Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother.” He explained that when God told him to leave his home and go to the place God would show him, he told Sarah that she could show her love for him by saying that he was her brother everywhere they went.

Abimelech returned Sarah to Abraham and gave him sheep and cattle and male and female slaves. He told Abraham he could live anywhere in his kingdom that he wanted. Abimelech told Sarah that he was giving Abraham 10,000 shekels of silver (about 25 pounds) as compensation for having offended her. He made sure everyone knew that she had been vindicated.

Abraham prayed to God and God healed Abimelech, his wife and his slave girls so that they could have children again.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* Where did Abraham go to live?
* What did King Abimelech do with Sarah?
* How was King Abimelech warned?
* How did King Abimelech respond?
* What was Abraham’s excuse?
* How did things turn out for Abraham?
* What did you like about this story?
* What did you not like about this story?
* What did you learn about God from this story?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.