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We see God's grace to Abraham through the birth of both Ishmael and, later, Isaac. God never wavered in fulfilling his promise, and he graciously made provision for Ishmael's well-being. **How has God shown grace to you despite your wavering faith? Where has he redeemed your poor choices?**

- **Where did Hagar go wrong?** In showing contempt for Sarah, she became too proud of her newfound status. Her attitude backfired, and she ended up running away into a desperate situation. Read Proverbs 16:18. **How does Hagar's situation resemble what we read in this Proverb? In what ways has your own pride tripped you up?**

In Genesis 16:7–14, God met the abused slave girl in the desert, showing her how she had sinned then reassuring her of her unborn son's future success. "I see you," he said, in essence. "Have I actually seen the one who sees me?" she wondered in verse 13. Hagar is the first recorded person to give a name to God in the Bible. His appearance to her gave her the courage to return to a difficult situation and wait for the fulfillment



appears to be Abram's standard operating procedure when he encounters powerful men (20:13). We learn in 20:12 that Sarah was his half-sister, so Abraham was only telling a half-lie—or a half-truth. **In what ways can you identify with the decision to protect yourself with a half-truth? In what ways have half-truths made situations more complicated for you?**

God uses flawed people to further his plans. Abraham's folly shows us that it took a long time for Abraham to fully trust God. **Have you ever been your own worst enemy? How have you seen your faith develop over time despite your base inclinations?**

As you think about your character, consider the flawed "Father of the Faith" whom God rescued from his own foolishness, and take heart. **In what ways is Abraham's faith journey encouraging to yours?**

Write out a prayer of thanksgiving to God, acknowledging where you know he rescued you from your own poor choices. Thank him for his grace in your life as you've grown in your faith.

## **6. Weekly Reading Plan**

Genesis is a long book, and we won't be able to study every verse of it during each of these sessions. This reading plan will help you familiarize yourself with the entirety of the book so that you can dig more deeply into God's Word. Some weeks will have more reading than others, so feel free to complete the daily readings at a pace that makes the most sense to your group.

Session 3 focused on the choosing of Abraham and the miraculous birth of his son. Abraham's



story includes intrigue, family drama, and events that reveal more about him as a man of faith who was also flawed like anyone else.

Day 1: Abraham Gains Prominence in the Land  
(Genesis 12–14)

Day 2: Father Abraham (Genesis 15–17)

Day 3: Lot and the Judgment of Sodom and  
Gomorrah (Genesis 18–19)

Day 4: Isaac's Birth and Abraham's Testing  
(Genesis 20–22)

Day 5: Establishing Abraham's Legacy (Genesis  
23–25:18)