



**Unresolved Sin**  
Genesis 20

# How to use this Scripture Engagement



## Pray to Begin

Before you start each lesson, ask the Lord to use it to grow you in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



## Read the Bible passage

Invite God to open your eyes and deepen your understanding of His Word as you read the passage.



## Study the Scripture Engagement Guide

Go through the Scripture Engagement study provided to reflect on the meaning, context, and personal application of the passage you've read.



## Reflect on the Scripture Engagement Questions

After every teaching, consider the Scripture Engagement questions listed for personal reflection and application and for your small group discussions.



## Listen to Dr. J. Vernon McGee's Teaching

If you'd like to hear the complete audio teaching on the passage, [visit ttb.bible](http://ttb.bible) or scan the QR code on the last page to download the THRU the BIBLE app in your own language.



Use our recommended **pause and resume icon**. This will guide you to move through the content thoughtfully and at your own rhythm.

# For your consideration

## How to use this Scripture Engagement

Page

2

## The Half-Truth (Genesis 20)

Page

4

# Unresolved Sin

*Holy and Faithful God,*

*As we come to this chapter, give us honest hearts. Show us not only obvious failures but also the patterns we have learned to excuse. Teach us to trust You fully and to deal truthfully with anything that blocks Your blessing in our lives. Prepare us to walk in integrity before You.*

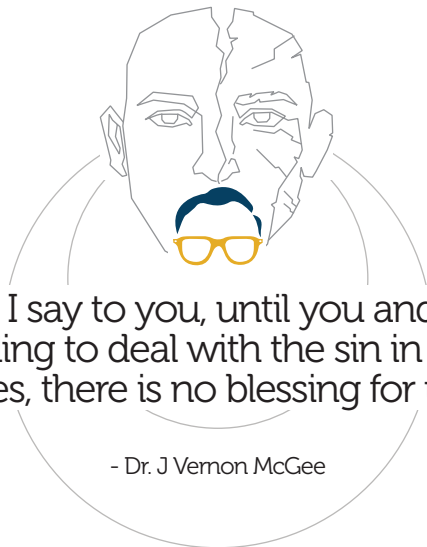
*In Jesus' name, Amen.*



## The Half-Truth



Genesis 20



"May I say to you, until you and I are willing to deal with the sin in our lives, there is no blessing for us."

- Dr. J Vernon McGee

### Genesis 20: Theme Overview

#### SITUATION

Abraham **once again** tells the same lie.



Sarah is **once again** placed in danger.



And **once again**, God must intervene.



#### ACTION



God had a specific and intentional lesson to teach Abraham at this time.

#### OUTCOME

Abraham fell into sin again, and God allowed it to happen.

Before God brings new life.

He addresses the sin in Abraham.



Genesis 20 may, at first glance, seem like a chapter we could skip, too familiar, uncomfortable, even repetitive. Yet God is at work here with purpose. Even in Abraham's failure, He is preparing him, bringing hidden sin to light before the fulfillment of His promise.

Abraham moved south into Gerar, farther from where God had last spoken to him. And once again, fear begins to shape his decisions. He tells the king of Gerar that Sarah is his sister. It is the same story he told years earlier in Egypt. The same strategy. The same justification. The same fear.



This is not a momentary lapse;  
**it is a pattern.**

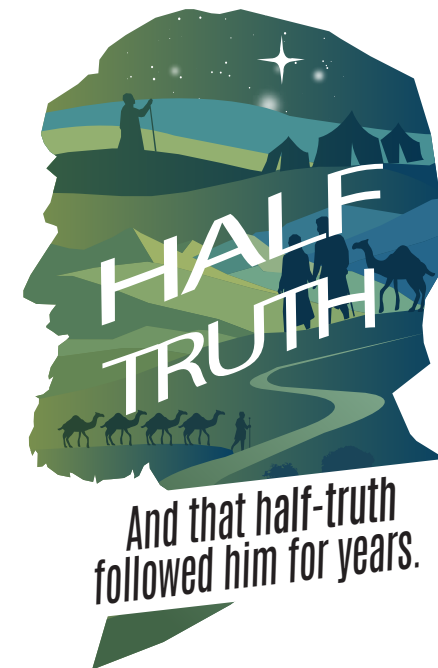
Sarah, now nearly ninety years old, is still taken into the household of another ruler. Once again, God steps in, because He will not allow His covenant promise to be corrupted.

It is striking that Abraham, the man of faith, appears spiritually weaker here than Abimelech, a pagan king. Abimelech shows moral sensitivity, responds to God's warning, and acts with integrity. Abraham, meanwhile, explains himself by saying he assumed there was no fear of God in that place, and that the king might kill him on account of Sarah.

 What does it mean to fear God? Who do you think feared God the least in this moment?

He admits that his deception was intentional. It was not a spontaneous decision. Long ago, when God first called him, Abraham and Sarah made a plan that wherever they went, she would say he was her brother.

Though Abraham and Sarah were related, they hid that they were married. It was a plan formed out of fear, not faith. A half-truth designed to protect himself.



Do you have any half-truths in your life? Have you convinced yourself that they are truths?

McGee observes that this chapter exists for one central reason: Abraham and Sarah could not receive Isaac until this sin was dealt with.

**That truth still stands.**

God **does not** withdraw His promises, but He may delay their enjoyment until His people are ready to walk in truth.



Scripture consistently teaches this principle. **Blessing follows repentance. Restoration follows confession. Growth follows truth.** Paul later writes to the Corinthian church that when believers fail to examine themselves, God disciplines not to destroy, but to restore. *(1 Corinthians 11:28-32)*



Judgment begins in the house of God because God cares too much to leave His people unchanged.

This chapter quietly reminds us that God is not interested in surface obedience.

He desires integrity of heart. He is patient, but He is also purposeful.

And sometimes, the delay we experience is **not God withholding His promise**, but God inviting us to **surrender** something we have carried for too long.

Before Isaac can be born, Abraham must face what he has avoided.



Before God brings new fruit into our lives, He often asks us to surrender our worries to him.



## Reflection

## Question 1

Where in your life are you giving in to fear instead of trusting God fully?

## Question 2

Are there sinful patterns or compromises you've come to accept because they feel familiar or safe?



## Application

### Question 3

What half truths or sins might God be asking you to confront in your life instead of giving into fear, that you may receive His blessing?

## Draw your Application



## Your Takeaway

Integrating **'God's Intelligence'** in my life.

## McGee's Quote



“

Blessing is being withheld from the church and from the lives of many believers because we will not deal with the sin in our lives. This is a tremendous spiritual lesson here in the twentieth chapter of the Book of Genesis.

”



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