

# Growth Group Preparation Questions

For the week of January 23, 2022

Abraham: How to Deal with Repetitive Sin. Gen. 20

**Big Idea:** More than anything God wants us to love him

**Goal:** To inspire people to take a fresh look at what their heart loves

## Prepare

This week we're diving into *Genesis 20* asking God to give us a fresh look into what our hearts really love. The personal preparation time and discussion are meant to help us flesh out what we've learned through the sermon and apply it more thoroughly in our lives together.

**Watch** Pastor Shawn's sermon, *How to Deal With Repetitive Sin*, noting anything memorable and impactful as you go.

**Read** Genesis 20, Deuteronomy 6:5, and 1 John 2:1-6

**Pray:** Father, show us what our hearts love more than you and then reorder our affections so we love You most.

## Connect

1. How does your household now or growing up divide meal prep and clean up responsibilities?

**Discussion** Take some time to personally reflect on these questions after viewing the sermon and before your G2. It could make for a great morning devotional time! You can type and save your responses in the FBC app privately if you would like.

**Use the diagnostic tool at the end of the G2Qs to help answer the questions below.**

1. **Read Deuteronomy 6:5 and 1 John 2:3-6.** How would your life be different if you loved God with every fiber of your being and trusted Him completely?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. When has an unbelieving person convicted you of your sin as Abimelech did for Abraham
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What keeps people from breaking the cycles of repetitive sin?
  - a. What have you found helpful vs. unhelpful in breaking these cycles?

- b. What sins are a recurring problem for you and how is God dealing with you concerning them?
  
  - c. Which of the 4 core idols (comfort, control, power, approval) underly those repetitive sins?
  
  - d. What promises, patterns, and attributes of God, and who He has made you to be, confront this core idol?
4. **Read 1 John 2:1-2.** What is God's attitude toward us when we fail time and time again as Abraham did?

**Closing Prayer** This prayer section is a guide to help you process with God what you've learned about Him and yourself through the sermon, personal preparation time, and discussion, then seek the Holy Spirit's power in applying it in your life. Sharing these responses in your G2 will help others gain insight into God and themselves while also helping and encouraging one another toward growth.

**Admire:** What have you learned about God through this sermon, discussion, and Scripture? Praise Him for it.

**Admit:** What has the Holy Spirit revealed to you as areas where you are falling short? Confess it to God.

**Aspire:** What is a specific change you want to see in your life or action you and/or your G2 could take based in this time of interaction?

**Ask:** Keep track of requests and celebrations from others in your G2 and pray for them.

## LIFE ONLY HAS MEANING/I ONLY HAVE WORTH IF...

1. I have power and influence over others." (Power Idolatry)
2. I am loved and respected by \_\_\_\_." (Approval Idolatry)
3. I have this kind of pleasure experience, a particular quality of life." (Comfort idolatry)
4. I am able to get mastery over my life in the area of \_\_\_\_." (Control idolatry)
5. People are dependent on me and need me." (Helping Idolatry)
6. Someone is there to protect me and keep me safe." (Dependence idolatry)
7. I am completely free from obligations or responsibilities to take care of someone." (Independence idolatry)
8. I am highly productive and getting a lot done." (Work idolatry)
9. I am being recognized for my accomplishments, and I am excelling in my work." (Achievement idolatry)
10. I have a certain level of wealth, financial freedom, and very nice possessions." (Materialism idolatry)
11. I am adhering to my religion's moral codes and accomplished in its activities." (Religion idolatry)
12. This one person is in my life and happy to be there, and/or happy with me." (Individual person idolatry)
13. I feel I am totally independent of organized religion and am living by a self-made morality." (Irreligion idolatry)
14. My race and culture is ascendant and recognized as superior." (Racial/cultural idolatry)
15. A particular social grouping or professional grouping or other group lets me in." (Inner ring idolatry)
16. My children and/or my parents are happy and happy with me." (Family idolatry)
17. Mr. or Ms. "Right" is in love with me." (Relationship Idolatry)
18. I am hurting, in a problem; only then do I feel worthy of love or able to deal with guilt." (Suffering idolatry)
19. My political or social cause is making progress and ascending in influence or power." (Ideology idolatry)
20. I have a particular kind of look or body image." (Image idolatry)

If you seek **POWER** (success, winning, influence)...

- Your greatest nightmare: Humiliation
- People around you often feel: Used
- Your problem emotion: Anger

If you seek **APPROVAL** (affirmation, love, relationships)...

- Your greatest nightmare: Rejection
- People around you often feel: Smothered
- Your problem emotion: Cowardice

If you seek **COMFORT** (privacy, lack of stress, freedom)...

- Your greatest nightmare: Stress, demands
- People around you often feel: Neglected
- Your problem emotion: Boredom

If you seek **CONTROL** (self-discipline, certainty, standards)...

- Your greatest nightmare: Uncertainty
- People around you often feel: Condemned
- Your problem emotion: Worry

## Who I Am In Christ...

According to the Bible, I am God's possession, I am His child, His workmanship.

You are His friend, His temple, His vessel, a co-laborer, and His witness.

You are a soldier, an ambassador and a building, a temple.

You're his husbandry. You're a minister and an instrument.

You're His chosen, His beloved, His precious jewel, and His heritage.

**In Christ, you have been redeemed by blood**, set free from sin, set free from Satan, set free from the kingdom of darkness – chosen before the foundation of the world, predestined to be like Jesus, forgiven of all your trespasses, washed in blood, given a sound mind, given the Holy Spirit, adopted into God's family, justified freely by His grace, given all things pertaining to life, given great and precious promises, given ministry of reconciliation, given authority over the enemy, given access to God, and given wisdom for free.

**In Christ, you are complete, totally in Him**, free forever from sin's power. You're sanctified. You're fit for the Master's use. You're loved eternally. You're eternally kept in the palm of His hand. You're kept from falling, kept by His very power, and not condemned. You're one with the Lord. You're on your way to Heaven, quickened by His mighty power, seated in the heavenly places. You're the head and not the tail. You're the light in darkness. You're a candle in a dark place. You're a city set on a hill. You're the salt of the earth. You are His sheep. You are a citizen of Heaven. You're hidden with Christ in God, protected from the evil one. You're kept by the power of God. You're secure in Christ. You're set on a rock. You're more than a conqueror. You're born again. You're a victor. You're healed by His stripes, covered by His blood, sheltered by His wings, hidden in His secret place.

**In Him, you have access to the Father**, have a home in Heaven waiting for you, have all things in Christ, have a living hope, and an anchor to your soul, a hope sure and steadfast, authority to tread on serpents, power to witness, the tongue of the learned, the mind of Christ, boldness and access, peace with God, and like faith of a mustard seed.

**In Christ you can do all things**, find mercy, come boldly to His throne, quench the fiery darts of the enemy, tread on him like a serpent, declare liberty to the captives, pray always, chase a thousand, defeat and overcome the enemy, and tread Satan under foot.

**The only thing you cannot do in Christ** is be separated from God, perish or be lost, be moved, be taken out of your Father's hand, be charged or accused or be condemned.