



**Series:** Genesis

**Passage:** Genesis 21:22-34

**Title:** Tools for Great Relationships

**Speaker:** Pastor David Menard, 10/16/2022

**Discussion Starter** – Why are relationships so important in our lives? What did you learn about making and maintaining good relationships this week?

- Why do you think Abimelech's recognized that "God was with Abraham in all he did", even though Abraham was not godly and lied to him in Chapter 20?
- How has God demonstrated His grace in your life as it relates to your failures in being godly? What do you think people who have watched your life would say about you despite your failures?
- Why do you think Abimelech seeks to maintain a relationship with Abraham? What steps did he take?
- What practical principles for relationship building did Abimelech demonstrate to us here?
- What does it mean to be proactive compared to reactive, as it applies to relationships? Read Deuteronomy 28:13 and Proverbs 14:1. How do these verses apply to our relationships?
- Describe the purpose and the type of covenant between Abimelech and Abraham in verse 23.
- Why do you think Abraham waited to discuss the dispute over the well? What wisdom for great relationships is Abraham demonstrating here for us?
- Describe Abimelech's response to Abraham's accusation in verse 26. Do you think he was being honest? Why or why not? What do we learn from Abraham by his response and plan for the resolution of the issue?
- What is the risk we take when we simply avoid conflict?
- What is the difference between waiting for the right time to address a problem and procrastination? Would you describe yourself as a sweeper or a flame thrower?
- Describe and compare the strengths and weaknesses of each approach to conflict resolution? How can we discern the proper timing and approach to resolving a problem with an individual?
- Describe how Abraham was able to move past the dispute over the well? How did Abraham "go the extra mile" with Abimelech to resolve this issue?
- Can you identify disputes or misunderstandings with people in your life that hinder them from seeing God? How can you apply Abraham's approach to your situation?
- What is the significance of Abraham calling on "The Lord, The Everlasting God" in verse 33?
- What is significant about the planting of the Tamarisk Tree? What do we learn about the growth in Abraham's relationship with God from this act?
- Read Hebrews 11:13. What does it say about God's promises?
- Read Matthew 10:34-39. What insights does this passage give us on relationships?
- How can we better invest in others to leave a legacy? What 4 evidences should be witnessed by others in your life by those around you that were given in the message?
- Who are your most important relationships? How are you investing in them?