



CHAPTER  
25

GENESIS

## DAY ONE

1. Please read the chapter twice to become familiar with the events.
2. Fill in the chart. Since we find these ages recorded in scripture, we want to be sure we observe and remember them.

Age at the time of each event.		Event
Genesis 12:1-4	Abram	Left Haran, moved to Canaan
Genesis 16:16	Abram	Ishmael born
Genesis 17:1-8	Abram	Promises given
Genesis 21:5	Abraham Sarah	Isaac born. (Genesis 17:17 mentions the difference in their ages)
Genesis 23:1	Sarah Abraham Isaac	Sarah died. (you will need to do the math for Abraham and Isaac's age)
Genesis 25:20	Isaac	Isaac married Rebekah.
Genesis 25:26	Isaac	Rebekah gives birth to twins.
Genesis 25:7	Abraham	Abraham died

3. Genesis 25 tells the story of Abraham's final years of life; and yet his usefulness is far from over. God has plans for this man even in his twilight years. His days were filled with blessings and trials. What was the promise given to Abraham in Genesis 17:4?

4. Read Genesis 25:1, Abraham married \_\_\_\_\_. Her name means "incense or scented one." This woman was pleasant, like a beautiful scent that fills a room. The Bible speaks of things that are a sweet smell to God.  
What are some of the things which are a pleasing aroma to the LORD?

Read these verses and comment.

2 Corinthians 2:15 (KJV)

Psalm 141:2 (KJV)

**5.** Abraham was well-advanced in years, but God was not finished fulfilling the promises. God had promised him nations and so far, he has only had two sons. Abraham marries another woman, Keturah, and she bore him \_\_\_\_\_ sons.

List the sons born to Abraham and Keturah.

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

**6.** Abraham and Keturah got to enjoy six grandsons. I read this somewhere, “Grandchildren fill a space in your heart that you did not even know was empty.” Read Proverbs 17:6, what does the Bible say about grandchildren?

**7.** Abraham knows his years are coming to an end. Wise men do what is necessary to help the transition of family leadership go smoothly. The heir of this family had already been determined. God had clearly stated that Isaac was the child of promise; he was to lead the family when Abraham died. While we should endeavor to love our children equally, this does not mean that we must give them an equal inheritance. It is our responsibility to provide a clear plan for our children’s inheritance based on biblical principles. Read Proverbs 3:5-6; Proverbs 16:9; Psalm 37:23; James 1:5; Philippians 4:6-7; Proverbs 16:3; Proverbs 13:22. What is the most important factor in deciding what to leave and to whom?

**8.** Even though Isaac would soon lead the family and be given the estate to manage, each of Abraham’s sons received a gift from their father. What wise move did we see Abraham make in verse 6?

How might this help avoid some potential issues?  
(Do you remember the problem addressed in Genesis 13:5-7?)

**9.** In his book *Giving It All Away and Getting It All Back Again: The Way of Living Generously*, David Green, founder of Hobby Lobby, states that the first inheritance (we should give our children and grandchildren) should be a set of values, virtues and work ethic.” How are you preparing your children (or nieces and nephews) for their inheritance?

**10.** Genesis 25:8 said, “Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, and old man and full of years.” What do you believe is meant by “full of years?” How might we express this today?

**11.** After Abraham died, we see Isaac is now living in an area near Beer Lahai Roi. Do you recall how this place got its name? (If you do not recall, read Genesis 16:13-16)

## DAY TWO

**12.** This next section fills in the details of Ishmael’s life after leaving his father’s house when he was just a young man. Read Genesis 21:20-21, who had he married?

Make a list of the twelve sons of Ishmael. Genesis 25:13

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

**13.** Funerals can bring loved ones back together. In some cases, time softens hearts. In verse 9 we read that Isaac and Ishmael came together to bury their father. That is commendable, but was it a complete restoration of these two families? Read Genesis 25:18.

**14.** Look at the maps at the end of this study guide to locate the places mentioned in this chapter. Specifically locate: Mamre where the cave of Machpelah is located (burial site of Abraham and Sarah), Lahai Roi (Isaac’s home), and the area of Havilah to Shur near the eastern border of Egypt (the dwelling place of Ishmael’s descendants).

**15.** In the Bible we read quite a lot about Abraham, Isaac’s father, and much about his son, Jacob, but relatively little is written about Isaac. He was the miracle son of promise born to Abraham and Sarah in their old age. What is the one event that is forever tied to the memory of Isaac?  
(Genesis 22)

**16.** Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah. What kind of wife was she to Isaac from the very beginning? Read Genesis 24:66-67

We talked about this last week, so we won't go into too much detail. Did you choose something to work on this week to become a more comforting wife to your husband?

Have you practiced being a better listener, a better encourager, or perhaps being more available and focused on his needs?

Have you expressed your thankfulness for the man he is?  
(We tend to find things we are looking for. Look for things you are thankful for.)

**17.** Verse 21 is especially sweet. Isaac and Rebekah got along very well, but there was one thing they both longed for. Sadly, many couples suffer like this today. What did Isaac do that should set an example for all other married couples in this situation?

**18.** When Isaac prayed, what happened?

The word translated prayed is the Hebrew word 'athar,' to entreat, to supplicate, to pray?

Who are you interceding for when you pray?

Specifically, what are you asking God to do for them?

**19.** Rebekah was pregnant with two babies. These two wrestled so much in the womb that she found it concerning. Rebekah asked the LORD, “Why is this happening to me?”

“Your situation may not be exactly like Rebekah’s. You may not have two babies wrestling in your womb, but perhaps you are seeking an answer to your question, “Why? Why am I walking through a particular situation or trial?”

“Why did I lose my job?”

“Why am I still alone?”

“Why did my loved one die?”

“Why can’t my friends find relief from depression?”

“Why do some people have so much and others so little?”

“Why isn’t my loved one getting better no matter how much I pray?”

“Why is the world so messed up?”

God has answers. This world is a broken place and we have an enemy. But most importantly, God is working, even when we cannot see it. Like Rebekah, your story is not over. Have faith my friend. Seek a word from God. Ask God to give you strength to finish the course set out for you. Take a minute and write out your question as a prayer to the LORD.

**20.** God spoke to Rebekah; the LORD’s answer would serve as an explanation and a promise. What unusual thing did God tell Rebekah concerning these baby boys? (Verse 23)  
What promise was she given?

## DAY THREE

**21.** As with all pregnancies Rebekah’s delivery day arrived. How was her first son described?

**22.** What did they name this first son?

**23.** Then the second son was born, what was he doing as he was being delivered?

**24.** What was the second son named?

**25.** It took me the entire nine months each time to decide what I would name my children. If you have children, how did you choose your children’s names?

**26.** How old was Isaac when Rebekah gave birth to these two boys?

**27.** How long was Rebekah barren, longing and waiting for a child? (Genesis 25:20, 26)

**28.** What is the longest amount of time you have continued to pray for one specific thing?

**29.** What emotions did you experience during your long prayer journey awaiting an answer?

**30.** Now let's look at these boys as they grew into manhood. What did you learn about Esau?

**31.** What did you learn about Jacob?

## DAY FOUR

**32.** What do we call the problem happening in the home of Isaac and Rebekah?

Have you ever had a front row seat to see a family suffering from this problem?

**33.** Are there times you might be guilty of favoritism in parenting?

If not, what do you do to avoid it?

**34.** God is the perfect parent. Romans 2:11 reminds us, "God does not show favoritism." He certainly could since some of his children are much more obedient than others. How does favoritism affect a person's self-worth?

**35.** What does the Bible say about favoritism? Read James 2:9; Romans 2:11; Acts 10:34.

**36.** What happens to the self-worth of the child who feels less valued by a parent? How might they react to their feelings of less-than?

**37.** What can we do to keep this from happening?

**38.** This chapter ends with a very sad story. Jacob had been in the tent preparing a stew. Stew is one of those meals it takes all day to prepare and cook to get the meat tender. I am sure the smell went out of the tent and all over the campsite. Where had Esau been all day?

What did he want?

When did he want it?

**39.** Have you ever felt like that?

You have a need that could easily be met by someone else, but past experience tells you it is not going to be easy to get them to agree. Esau probably dreaded having to ask his brother for anything. How did he word his need? “Quick, let me have some of that red stew! \_\_\_\_\_!  
\_\_\_\_\_!”

**40.** In the typical Jacob mindset, he thought, “What can I get out of this deal?”. He must have seen Esau was in great need because this was no little thing he asked for in exchange. “Sell me your \_\_\_\_\_.”

**41.** This type of story is always sad. Seeing someone weak and in need should bring out a heart of compassion not merely an opportunity for personal gain. The story of these two brothers is sad to read on many levels. What was Esau’s evaluation of the situation? (verse 32)

**42.** Read Deuteronomy 21:15-17. A son’s birthright denoted special privileges and advantages belonging to the first-born son. When a father died because of his birthright, the firstborn son would become the priest and leader of the family. He would be responsible for leading the family in all decisions and in worship. Let’s think about birthright for just a minute. The birthright is a God-given blessing. Do you think this was a matter of real importance to Esau?

## DAY FIVE

**43.** There seems to be quite a bit of history with these two brothers. Jacob agreed to share his stew, but not without a price to pay. It was not enough for Esau to say he could have the birthright; what more did Jacob require? (verse 33)

**44.** After he ate and was a bit more refreshed, how do you think Esau felt about the deal he had made?

**45.** As you read this story and answered the questions did you think any of it sounded familiar?

Are there times we might trade something of great value for something of temporary gratification?

**46.** There are many lessons we can learn from Genesis 25. Read James 2:1, what instructions are believers given?

**47.** When we fail to obey James 2:1, it can ruin family relationships. What are some steps we can take as a parent to avoid this destructive trap?

**48.** In their homes, the position of the eldest was considered a God-given position of honor. It came with an expectation to lead well (with a large helping of age-appropriate grace) because others are watching and following. In my family, I found that thanking our eldest for the example she set reaped a harvest of good behavior. How might this feeling of honor and responsibility help children respond to one another in a more loving way?

**49.** In our hearts I honestly believe we all want to be good parents. Can you think of ways parents unknowingly stoke competition and rivalry among their children?

How important is the wording of our praise and our correction?

**50.** The next parenting tool I fear Isaac and Rebekah may have missed teaching is reverence. The definition of reverence is displaying respect for a person or thing. Reverence allows us, as well as those around us, to feel the Spirit of God. What are some ways parents can teach reverence?

Are there places, other than church, where a parent might want their children to act reverently?

**51.** A very important tool missing in the home of Isaac and Rebekah is that of training your children to love each other. Of course, the best teaching tool is always a good example. What are some ways we can model loving each other in the home?

**52.** The last parenting tool I would like us to consider is training our children to deal with personal poor choices and the inevitable consequences that come. What could Isaac and Rebekah have done at this point to help their sons deal with the consequences of this transaction?



THE  
BIBLE  
MAPS



# NOTES

## DAY ONE

### Question 2

#### **Genesis 12:1-4 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” <sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

#### **Genesis 16:16 (KJV)**

<sup>16</sup>Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

#### **Genesis 17:1-8 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.” <sup>3</sup>Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. <sup>8</sup>The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”

#### **Genesis 21:5 (KJV)**

<sup>5</sup>Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

#### **Genesis 23:1 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup>Sarah lived to be a hundred and twenty-seven years old.

### Question 4

#### **2 Corinthians 2:15 (KJV)**

<sup>15</sup>For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.

#### **Psalm 141:2 (KJV)**

<sup>2</sup>May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

### Question 6

#### **Proverbs 17:6 (KJV)**

<sup>6</sup>Children’s children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.

### Question 7

#### **Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)**

<sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup>in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

## BIBLICAL REFERENCES

### **Proverbs 16:9 (KJV)**

<sup>9</sup>In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.

### **Psalm 37:23 (KJV)**

<sup>23</sup>The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him;

### **James 1:5 (KJV)**

<sup>5</sup>If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

### **Philippians 4:6-7 (KJV)**

<sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### **Proverbs 16:3 (KJV)**

<sup>33</sup>The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

### **Proverbs 13:22 (KJV)**

<sup>22</sup>A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.

## **DAY THREE**

### Question 27

### **Genesis 25:20, 26 (NIV)**

<sup>20</sup>and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram[a] and sister of Laban the Aramean.

<sup>26</sup>After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

## **DAY FOUR**

### Question 34

### **Romans 2:11 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup>For God does not show favoritism

### Question 35

### **James 2:9 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup>But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

### **Romans 2:11 (KJV)**

<sup>11</sup>For God does not show favoritism.

### **Acts 10:34 (KJV)**

<sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism



# BIBLICAL REFERENCES

Question 42

## **Deuteronomy 21:15-17 (NIV)**

<sup>15</sup>If a man has two wives, and he loves one but not the other, and both bear him sons but the firstborn is the son of the wife he does not love, <sup>16</sup>when he wills his property to his sons, he must not give the rights of the firstborn to the son of the wife he loves in preference to his actual firstborn, the son of the wife he does not love. <sup>17</sup>He must acknowledge the son of his unloved wife as the firstborn by giving him a double share of all he has. That son is the first sign of his father's strength. The right of the firstborn belongs to him.

## DAY FIVE

Question 46

## **James 2:1 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.

# NOTES

# B I B L E   C H A P T E R S

## **Genesis 25 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup>Abraham had taken another wife, whose name was Keturah.

<sup>2</sup>She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah.

<sup>3</sup>Jokshan was the father of Sheba and Dedan; the descendants of Dedan were the Ashurites, the Letushites and the Leummmites.

<sup>4</sup>The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanok, Abida and Eldaah. All these were descendants of Keturah.

<sup>5</sup>Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac.

<sup>6</sup>But while he was still living, he gave gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them away from his son Isaac to the land of the east.

<sup>7</sup>Abraham lived a hundred and seventy-five years.

<sup>8</sup>Then Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and full of years; and he was gathered to his people.

<sup>9</sup>His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah near Mamre, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite,

<sup>10</sup>the field Abraham had bought from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried with his wife Sarah.

<sup>11</sup>After Abraham's death, God blessed his son Isaac, who then lived near Beer Lahai Roi.

<sup>12</sup>This is the account of the family line of Abraham's son Ishmael, whom Sarah's slave, Hagar the Egyptian, bore to Abraham.

<sup>13</sup>These are the names of the sons of Ishmael, listed in the order of their birth: Nebaioth the firstborn of Ishmael, Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,

<sup>14</sup>Mishma, Dumah, Massa,

<sup>15</sup>Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish and Kedemah.

<sup>16</sup>These were the sons of Ishmael, and these are the names of the twelve tribal rulers according to their settlements and camps.

<sup>17</sup>Ishmael lived a hundred and thirty-seven years. He breathed his last and died, and he was gathered to his people.

<sup>18</sup>His descendants settled in the area from Havilah to Shur, near the eastern border of Egypt, as you go toward Ashur. And they lived in hostility toward all the tribes related to them.

<sup>19</sup>This is the account of the family line of Abraham's son Isaac. Abraham became the father of Isaac,

<sup>20</sup>and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram[c] and sister of Laban the Aramean.

<sup>21</sup>Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant.

<sup>22</sup>The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.

<sup>23</sup>The LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger."

<sup>24</sup>When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb.

<sup>25</sup>The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau.

<sup>26</sup>After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

<sup>27</sup>The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents.

<sup>28</sup>Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

<sup>29</sup>Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished.

<sup>30</sup> He said to Jacob, “Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!” (That is why he was also called Edom.)

<sup>31</sup> Jacob replied, “First sell me your birthright.”

<sup>32</sup> “Look, I am about to die,” Esau said. “What good is the birthright to me?”

<sup>33</sup> But Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

<sup>34</sup> Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.