



CHAPTER
26

GENESIS

DAY ONE

1. Please read the chapter at least twice before beginning the study guide.

This chapter begins with Isaac as the new patriarch of the family. He and his wife, Rebekah, and their two sons had been living near Beer Lahai Roi. Genesis 26 opens with a huge problem. What is going on that would cause Isaac distress?



2. Isaac's father, Abraham, also lived through a famine (this is not the same famine, it is many years later). What did Abraham do to provide the supplies needed for his family, his servants, and his livestock when he faced this same difficulty?

(If you do not recall, take a minute to look at Genesis 12:10-20.)

3. The LORD appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not _____ to Egypt; live in the land where _____ tell you to live."

That was not the end of God's promise to Isaac; what other promises was he given in Genesis 26:2-6? (It might be easier to highlight the key words, then write your answer.)

4. Finding provisions for a household as large as Isaac's was difficult during this famine, so he chose to move to Gerar. Abraham had also lived in the area near Gerar for a time. Do you think Isaac had heard the stories of Abraham's time in Gerar?

Read Genesis 10:18b-19, to whom did this territory belong?

Genesis 20 records the events of Abraham and Sarah while they lived in Gerar.

5. According to verse 5, what was the reason for God’s blessing on Isaac?

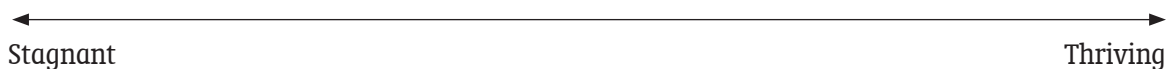
6. Are you passing on a legacy of obedience and blessing?

Our legacy can be many things; it can be monetary, or it can be a long-lasting impact for Christ.

Let’s think about this for a few minutes.

To end up at the right destination, one must travel the right road. As with all relationships, they begin at a point in time, when we meet one another. Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus? If your answer is yes, in your small group, please share as many details as you recall about meeting Jesus.

7. Look at the continuum below while considering the relationships in your life. Where would you place your relationship with the Lord?



8. Are you a person of personal conviction?

Thomas Carlyle says, *“Conviction is worthless until it can convert itself into daily conduct.”*

DAY TWO —

9. God has given you influence over people around you. Are you concerned for their hearts?

10. Do your prayers reflect this concern for the souls of others?

11. What seeds are you sowing today to pass on your legacy of love for the Lord and His Word? Please briefly share with the ladies in your group the ways in which you do this.

12. Think of a time when your faith withstood a storm (a tumultuous season out of your control) or a famine (a time of dire need). Please briefly share with your group how God was there with you.

13. Read Romans 12:1-2 (MSG), in what way do these verses challenge you to consider your influence?

14. Abraham was not perfect, but his faith in the LORD was real and matured throughout his life. God continued to bless his descendants because of the covenant he made with Abraham. Do you have a relative or friend whose relationship with the Lord influenced and benefited your walk of faith?

Let me say, your consistent time studying God's word is a testimony to others.

15. Genesis 26:6 tells us that Isaac stayed in Gerar. Sadly, we see the same seeds of fear in Isaac's heart that we read about in Abraham's heart. What did both men fear?

16. How would you define this type of fear?

This fear showed a lack of _____ in the God they loved.

DAY THREE —

17. We all have struggled with fear. The important thing for a believer is to grow in our trust and not pass this fear on to others. Read Psalm 34:4 and Philippians 4:4-7; how do we replace fear with faith?

18. Isaac chose to tell a lie, but as is often the case, the lie gets revealed. Our enemy, Satan, would like us to believe that a lie will serve us better than the truth. Then once he has gotten us to lie, he enjoys watching us deal with the shame when we are caught. The truth is the cost of sin is almost always later and often greater than we initially anticipated. What did it cost Isaac when his lie was discovered?

19. Read Proverbs 3:1-6; briefly state what you learn from these verses about a mature walk of faith.

20. After this pitiful display of character, Isaac remains in the land, plants crops, receives a bountiful harvest and becomes wealthy. Look at verse 12, what was the reason for Isaac's success?

Were you surprised that God would bless Isaac like this after displaying such a lack of faith?

What does this tell you about the blessings of God?

21. Did everyone rejoice with Isaac at his good fortune?

Look at verse 15, what did the Philistines living in the area do?

22. The tables have turned; Isaac had feared the Philistines and now they fear Isaac. We see the king ask Isaac to leave. Isaac moved away, but not very far. He left Gerar and relocated to the valley near it. Obviously, this was not far enough to end the jealousy and quarreling. Despite the hard work of reopening wells that his father had dug, what did the men of Gerar say and do?

23. Isaac is a beautiful example of a man of peace. Even though he probably could have fought to keep the well, what do we see him do in verse 21?

24. The jealousy of the Philistines follows him again and again as he tries to find a way to live at peace together with them. How many wells did Isaac's men dig, only to end up giving them away, before moving to Beersheba?

It is approximately 20 miles from the valley of Gerar to Beersheba. List the wells Isaac's servants dug. Look up these Hebrew words and jot down the meanings of the names of these wells.

a.

b.

c.

DAY FOUR

25. Who appeared to Isaac when he left the land of the Philistines?

What was the purpose of this conversation?

26. What did Isaac do in response to this amazing meeting?

27. What did his men do to make this a place of refreshment and a place they could live and thrive?

28. After some time had passed, we see the Philistines are still fretting over Isaac's wealth. Even though Isaac has never done anything to make them think he would cause them harm, what did the king, his chief advisor, and the captain of the Philistine army come to talk about with Isaac?

29 When you read the words of this conversation, what did you think of the way these men remembered their prior treatment and conversations with Isaac?

30. How did Isaac respond to their words?

31. Isaac is truly a man of peace. Looking back to Genesis 25:17-18, how does the legacy of his half-brother Ishmael differ?

32. Let's look at peace for a few minutes. What are the steps of peace? Read Psalm 85:8-10, to help with your answer.

33. What clear instructions are believers given in Matthew 6:33, and Romans 12:18?

34. What are the benefits of living a life focused on obeying the LORD?
(James 3:18, Matthew 5:9 and Proverbs 16:7)

DAY FIVE

35. Isaac could have brought up past offenses. He could have waited for an apology, but he did neither. Isaac was eager to forgive and move on. Forgiveness is a choice on the part of the one offended. Did you notice, no one asked for forgiveness? As a matter of fact, they retold the events incorrectly. Are you able to allow past hurts to be a part of the past and simply forgive and move on?

36. The truth is, we will be offended from time to time, and we will offend others. What is the proper way to handle the hurt we have inflicted?

If we are a Christ follower, our response should be different from the way the world might handle an offense. Read Matthew 5:23-24, how did Jesus instruct us to handle times we have offended someone?

37. Genesis 26:31 said, “Early the next morning the men swore an oath to each other. Then the men left on their journey home.” This verse tells us, “...they went away _____.”

38. What are some practical steps we can take to leave the past in the past?
(This is not busy work; this is part of healing. We might be healing from an existing hurt or preparing for a future hurt.)

39. Accepting the past as it is does not mean we are denying it happened; only that we refuse to let it dictate the rest of our days. Fixating on the past robs us of the hope of the future. What plan do you have in place for getting over any past or future hurts?

40. One last event is mentioned in Genesis 26. It almost feels unrelated to all that has been going on, but it is not unrelated. This is often how our lives go. Isaac had been suffering from constant jealousy and quarrels with those living around him. That is finally over, and a peace treaty has been enacted. He is enjoying peace with his neighbors, but what is happening in his home?

41. Esau married two women, _____ the daughter of Beeri the Hittite and _____ the daughter of Elon the Hittite.

42. The Hittites are the descendants of Heth, the second son of Canaan. Read Genesis 9:25, what had God clearly said about the descendants of Canaan?

43. Instilling our beliefs and core values in our children's hearts should be a high priority while they are young, and their hearts are tender. Do you remember our study last week?

Is this the kind of intentional parenting we read about Isaac and Rebekah?

44. Why do you suppose these women were a source of grief to Isaac and Rebekah?

45. Read Genesis 23:3-4; what difference did Abraham mention between himself and the Hittites?

Did the patriarch Abraham feel he had anything in common with the Hittites?

46. How might we as parents or simply people of influence help others navigate romance and the choice of a mate (one they can rejoice with for all their days)?

DAY TWO

Question 13

Romans 12:1-2 (MSG)

¹⁻²So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

DAY THREE

Question 17

Psalms 34:4 (NIV)

⁴I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.

Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV)

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Question 19

Proverbs 3:1-6 (NIV)

¹My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, ²for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. ³Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. ⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

DAY THREE

Question 32

Psalms 85:8-10 (NIV)

⁸I will listen to what God the LORD says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants but let them not turn to folly. ⁹Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. ¹⁰Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Question 33

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Romans 12:18 (KJV)

¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Question 34

James 3:18 (KJV)

¹⁸Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Matthew 5:9 (KJV)

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Proverbs 16:7 (KJV)

⁷When the LORD takes pleasure in anyone's way, he causes their enemies to make peace with them.

DAY FIVE

Question 36

Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV)

²³“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Question 42

Genesis 9:25 (NIV)

²⁵ he said, “Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers.”

Question 45

Genesis 23:3-4 (NIV)

³Then Abraham rose from beside his dead wife and spoke to the Hittites. He said, ⁴“I am a foreigner and stranger among you. Sell me some property for a burial site here so I can bury my dead.”

B I B L E C H A P T E R S

Genesis 26 (NIV)

¹Now there was a famine in the land—besides the previous famine in Abraham’s time—and Isaac went to Abimelek king of the Philistines in Gerar.

²The LORD appeared to Isaac and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live.

³Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham.

⁴I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed,

⁵because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions.”

⁶So Isaac stayed in Gerar.

⁷When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he said, “She is my sister,” because he was afraid to say, “She is my wife.” He thought, “The men of this place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful.”

⁸When Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelek king of the Philistines looked down from a window and saw Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah.

⁹So Abimelek summoned Isaac and said, “She is really your wife! Why did you say, ‘She is my sister?’” Isaac answered him, “Because I thought I might lose my life on account of her.”

¹⁰Then Abimelek said, “What is this you have done to us? One of the men might well have slept with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us.”

¹¹So Abimelek gave orders to all the people: “Anyone who harms this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.”

¹²Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the LORD blessed him.

¹³The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy.

¹⁴He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him.

¹⁵So all the wells that his father’s servants had dug in the time of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up, filling them with earth.

¹⁶Then Abimelek said to Isaac, “Move away from us; you have become too powerful for us.”

¹⁷So Isaac moved away from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar, where he settled.

¹⁸Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them.

¹⁹Isaac’s servants dug in the valley and discovered a well of fresh water there.

²⁰But the herders of Gerar quarreled with those of Isaac and said, “The water is ours!” So he named the well Esek, because they disputed with him.

²¹Then they dug another well, but they quarreled over that one also; so he named it Sitnah.

²²He moved on from there and dug another well, and no one quarreled over it. He named it Rehoboth, saying, “Now the LORD has given us room and we will flourish in the land.”

²³From there he went up to Beersheba.

²⁴That night the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham.”

²⁵Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD. There he pitched his tent, and there his servants dug a well.

²⁶Meanwhile, Abimelek had come to him from Gerar, with Ahuzzath his personal adviser and Phicol the commander of his forces.

²⁷Isaac asked them, “Why have you come to me, since you were hostile to me and sent me away?”

²⁸ They answered, “We saw clearly that the LORD was with you; so we said, ‘There ought to be a sworn agreement between us’—between us and you. Let us make a treaty with you

²⁹ that you will do us no harm, just as we did not harm you but always treated you well and sent you away peacefully. And now you are blessed by the LORD.”

³⁰ Isaac then made a feast for them, and they ate and drank.

³¹ Early the next morning the men swore an oath to each other. Then Isaac sent them on their way, and they went away peacefully.

³² That day Isaac’s servants came and told him about the well they had dug. They said, “We’ve found water!”

³³ He called it Shibah, and to this day the name of the town has been Beersheba.

Jacob Takes Esau’s Blessing

³⁴ When Esau was forty years old, he married Judith daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and also Basemath daughter of Elon the Hittite.

³⁵ They were a source of grief to Isaac and Rebekah.