



The Beginning

Lesson 13: Isaac's Family

(Genesis 24:1-26:34)

When Isaac was 40 years old, Abraham instructed his oldest servant to go to the land Abraham's family lived in and find a wife for Isaac. Abraham made his servant promise that he would not find a wife for Isaac from among the people of Canaan, saying that the Lord would send His angel before the servant and cause his trip to be a success.

When the servant came to the city Abraham's brother had lived in, the servant prayed that God would help him on his mission. He asked that whenever he would ask a young woman for a drink, she would also offer his camels a drink. This would be the one Isaac would marry. Before he could finish speaking, a young woman named Rebekah came and did exactly what the servant had asked. Now, he knew that she was the one. So, he gave her gifts, told her family, and she went to Isaac to be married.

Abraham also took another wife after Sarah died, and had six additional children. But, Abraham gave everything he had to Isaac (who was the son God had promised to him and Sarah). Still, Abraham gave smaller gifts to his other children. Then, Abraham died at the age of 175 and was buried in the cave of Machpelah with Sarah.

Whenever Rebekah was unable to have any children, Isaac pleaded with God. God heard him and she had twin sons. God said that these two sons would become two nations, but the people who would come from the younger son would be stronger than the other. When they were born, the first son was red and hairy. So, they called his name "Esau" (which means "Hairy"). The second son took hold of his brother's heel when they were born. His name was called "Jacob" (which means "Heel-holder" or "Supplanter"). Isaac was now 60-years-old.

As the two boys grew, Esau was a skilled hunter and liked to spend time outside and Jacob liked to stay at home in the tent. Isaac loved Esau more than Jacob and Rebekah loved Jacob more than Esau. One day, when Jacob had cooked a stew, Esau came into the tent and was very tired and hungry. He asked Jacob for some of the stew and said he was about to die. But, to have the stew, Jacob made Esau give him his birthright. This birthright now gave Joseph a double amount of blessing from his father. Esau had chosen a single meal above all the blessings he was set to receive from his father whenever he had the birthright.

Whenever there was a famine in the land, Isaac went to Abimelech, the king of the Philistines. God commanded him not to go down to Egypt to live because this was the land God was going to give to his descendants. But, while Isaac was in Gerar, he lied to the people by saying Rebekah was his sister (just like his father, Abraham, had done). Whenever the king learned the truth, he was very angry with Isaac and told all the people not to touch Rebekah. Then, Isaac became very rich and powerful in this land.

Because Isaac became so rich and powerful, Abimelech told Isaac to leave Gerar. From there, Isaac moved to the Valley of Gerar. But, after he experienced more trouble there, he moved to another place. He called the name of the well there “Rehoboth,” because God had made room for them and caused them to prosper in the land.

Then, Isaac moved to Beersheba. It was here that the Lord appeared to him and told Isaac not to fear. God promised to be with Isaac, bless him, and make his descendants multiply because of the promise He had made to Abraham. So, Isaac built an altar and called on the name of the Lord.

After this, Abimelech came to Isaac and made an agreement with him. The king saw that God was with Isaac and blessed him. And, the king wanted Isaac not to hurt any of his people. So, they had a feast and agreed with one another.

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Memory Verse:

“And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake.” (Genesis 26:24).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: