

Isaac

GENESIS 25–26

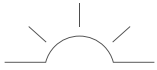
FIRST DAY: Introduction

Being a recipient of the promises of God does not exempt you from deficits, conflicts, failures, and problems. Rather, it causes you to seek God in every deficit, conflict, failure, and problem for His direction. Life on earth is rife with difficulties. However, God will use those difficulties to move us to seek His Word, ways, and will.

Isaac was the promised son given by God to Abraham. He was also the heir to all the divine promises God gave to Abraham. However, Isaac's wife was barren until God answered his prayer. Rebekah's pregnancy was difficult, driving her to seek God. Isaac was forced to move his entire household more than once because of strife with the Philistines. God used even these difficulties in Isaac and Rebekah's lives to prompt them to pray and settle in the place where He could bless them.

As a believer, you are not exempt from deficits, conflicts, failures, and problems. However, God wants to use these difficulties to take you deeper into His promises and blessings.

Take a moment to entrust any present deficits, conflicts, failures, or problems to God.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Keturah is mentioned in 1 Chronicles 1:32 as Abraham's concubine. In those days, a concubine was considered a secondary wife. She would not have held the same prominence as Sarah.

SECOND DAY: Read Genesis 25:1–18

1. The beginning of Genesis 25 summarizes the last days of Abraham's life. After the death of Sarah, Abraham married Keturah, who *bore him* many children (Genesis 25:1–4). What do you find interesting about this?

2. According to Genesis 25:5, what did Abraham give Isaac?
 - a. Remembering that Isaac was the son of promise (like Jesus), link this with John 3:35. What do you see?

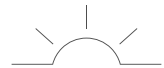
3. Abraham also *gave gifts* to the sons of his *concubines*. What did he do next? Genesis 25:6
 - a. Why do you think he deemed this necessary?

4. Genesis 25:7–10 records the death of Abraham. Use these verses to note and comment on:
 - a. Abraham's life
 - (1) Link this with Psalm 92:12–15 and share your thoughts.

- b. Abraham's burial
5. God *blessed* Isaac after the death of his father (Genesis 25:11). What does this indicate concerning God's promises to Abraham?
 6. Genesis 25:12–18 documents the *genealogy of Ishmael*. Link this record with God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 17:20. What do you see?
 7. What stands out to you about the life and legacy of Abraham?

THIRD DAY: Read Genesis 25:19–34

1. Following the *genealogy* of Ishmael, the text returned to the life of Isaac and his wife, Rebekah (Genesis 25:19–20). According to Genesis 25:21a, why did Isaac plead with the Lord *for his wife*?
 - a. How did God respond? Genesis 25:21b



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Abraham's death is recorded before the birth of Esau and Jacob. However, Abraham lived until they were fifteen years old.

- (1) Based on Genesis 25:26, we know that Isaac and Rebekah were married twenty years before the Lord answered. What does this suggest to you concerning prayer? See also Luke 18:1 and 1 John 5:14–15.

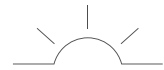
2. From Genesis 25:22a describe Rebekah's pregnancy.
 - a. What did she do in response to this? Genesis 25:22b
 - (1) Observe that both Isaac and Rebekah went to the Lord with their problems. How does this speak to you?

3. Record and remark on the Lord's response to Rebekah's inquiry. Genesis 25:23

4. Rebekah gave birth to twin sons as God had said (Genesis 25:24). Use Genesis 25:25–28 to contrast the two boys in the following chart:

	ESAU	JACOB	YOUR THOUGHTS
<i>Birth</i>	Verse 25	Verse 26	
<i>Lifestyle</i>	Verse 27a	Verse 27b	
<i>Parental Preference</i>	Verse 28a	Verse 28b	

- a. Having observed the lives of Jacob and Esau, why do you think it was necessary for Rebekah to receive a personal word from God?
5. Genesis 25:29–34 records an important interaction between Esau and Jacob. Use these verses to note and comment on:
- Esau's desire (verses 29–30)
 - Jacob's bargain (verses 31, 33–34)
 - Esau's reasoning (verse 32)



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Hebrew word *tam* (*mild*) used to describe Jacob actually implies being wholesome or upright.

- (1) The birthright included the spiritual promises given to Abraham by God as well as a double portion of the inheritance, the headship of the family, and the spiritual leadership. With this in mind, what does the fact that Esau *despised his birthright* indicate about him? See also Hebrews 12:16.

 - (2) Jacob's name means *heel-catcher* or *supplanter*. How does this incident show he was rightly named?

 - (3) Recall that God had told Rebekah in Genesis 25:23 that *the older shall serve the younger*. That being the case, why were Jacob's actions unnecessary?
6. From your study today, share a lesson or caution you receive from the actions and/or attitudes of:
- a. Isaac

 - b. Rebekah

 - c. Esau

 - d. Jacob

FOURTH DAY: Read Genesis 26:1–14

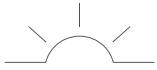
1. According to Genesis 26:1, there was a *famine in the land* that caused Isaac to go to Abimelech in Gerar. At this time, *the LORD appeared to him*. Use God's word to Isaac in Genesis 26:2–5 to note and comment on:
 - a. God's prohibition (verse 2a)

 - b. God's directive (verses 2b–3a)

 - c. God's promise (verses 3b–4)

 - d. God's affirmation of Abraham (verse 5)

2. Isaac obeyed God's word and *dwelt in Gerar* (Genesis 26:6). From Genesis 26:7–11 summarize what happened while he and Rebekah were living there.
 - a. Scan Genesis 12:10–20 and 20:1–18 and note your observations.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Abimelech was a title
(not a name) used
for the kings of the
Philistines.

(1) Link this with Psalm 105:13–15 and share your thoughts.

3. From Genesis 26:12–14 describe God’s blessing upon Isaac.

a. How does this fulfill God’s promise to Isaac in Genesis 26:3a?

(1) How does this minister to you?

FIFTH DAY: Read Genesis 26:15–35

1. The Philistines *envied* Isaac’s prosperity (Genesis 26:14b). As a result, what did they do? Genesis 26:15

a. In addition, what did Abimelech tell Isaac to do? Genesis 26:16

- (1) Observe that this conflict took place as God was blessing Isaac. What do you find noteworthy about this?

2. Use Genesis 26:17–22 to record Isaac’s journey:

LOCATION	WHAT HAPPENED THERE	YOUR TAKEAWAY
The Well of Esek <i>Contention</i>	Verses 16–20	
The Well of Sitnah <i>Hostility</i>	Verse 21	
The Well of Rehoboth <i>Broad, Spacious Places</i>	Verse 22	
Shebah <i>Beersheba</i> <i>Well of Seven</i>	Verses 23–25	

- a. Notice that Isaac continued to move on when conflict arose. Link his response with the following verses and share your thoughts:

(1) Psalm 34:14

(2) Romans 12:18

3. When Isaac settled in Beersheba, Abimelech paid him a visit. What do you observe about the interaction between Abimelech and Isaac? Genesis 26:26–31

- a. What does Abimelech's assessment of Isaac convey to you about the son of promise?
4. What happened the *same day* that Abimelech came? Genesis 26:32–33
 - a. How do you think the events of that *same day* validated God's promise to Isaac?
 5. Remark on the footnote in Genesis 26:34–35 concerning Esau.
 - a. What does this suggest about Esau's attitude concerning his family lineage? See Genesis 24:3.
 6. What is your greatest takeaway from today's lesson?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. From your study this week, record a lesson about the following:
 - a. Barrenness
 - b. Discomfort
 - c. Disunity
 - d. Difficulty
 - e. Fear
 - f. Conflict
 - g. Direction
 - h. Blessing
2. What did you observe in your lesson this week concerning Our Great Creator?