

## Week 42

### Family & Group Discussion

# ISAAC AND ABIMELECH

## INTRODUCTION

Isaac gets tested over and over again, yet we see God remains faithful and trustworthy. We should be a people striving to live like Isaac (in some ways) and honor God with everything He has given us.

## DISCUSSION

What are some of the things you saw your parents do that you said you would never do...and yet, you HAVE done them?

## EXPLANATION

Talk about a time you believe you were tested. Did you respond in faith?  
How our view of testing change when our focus isn't on ourselves and we are more focused on our witness to others?

## APPLICATION

Read Genesis 26:30.

What is your reaction to people who have done evil towards you?  
Is Christ glorified through your reaction?

## MISSION

How can walking by faith even in the face of hardship change the way the people around you view God?



## 42. ISAAC AND ABIMELECH

### Genesis 26

Psalms 24:18-19

Genesis 26:1-35

Proverbs 29:23

2 Thessalonians 3:10

2 Corinthians 5:7

Matthew 5:44

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## HOME WORK FOR NEXT WEEK:

Read Genesis 27 – 28:9

If you could change your name to anything else, what would it be?  
Have you ever wanted to be someone other yourself? Who? Why?

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Agape Thanksgiving  
Dinner - Wednesday, 6pm**

*Potluck Dinner:*

*Last name:*

*A-M bring either chili or  
soup main course*

*N-Z bring side (bread,  
cornbread, salad)*

**Women's Ornament  
Exchange**

*Tuesday, Dec 11, 6pm*

*Childcare Available*

**Thanksgiving Dinner**  
*Thursday, 3pm*

*earnest@ourelement.org*



**Psalms 24:18-19 “The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.”**

In all of Genesis, chapter 26 is one of the few narratives devoted to Isaac. While the rest of the book will focus on his sons, this chapter gives us a great view on the kind of man their dad was. Genesis 26 focuses mainly on three different aspects of Isaac’s life; his faith, finances, and family. By looking at these 3 aspects in Isaac’s life, we find great insight and perspective into these areas of our own lives.

When we look at Isaac’s faith, we see a man who trusts God to do what He said He would. Genesis 26:3-4 says, *“Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands.”* God does not say, “sojourn in this land and I will make life easy.”

Many times we confuse “blessing” for “ease,” and instead of seeking God we seek easy living and comfort. Isaac gets neither of these. Isaac is faced with hardship after hardship. He is forced to pack up his family and move time and time again. He labors to dig wells and set up businesses, yet people continue to claim what is not theirs and run him out of town. When we face hardships, most of us want to throw in the towel and give up, or seek revenge. If someone ruined our business we would secretly hope that theirs became ruined as well. If someone filled in our well (so to speak), we would hope vengeance with from God would come upon them. Many times we even justify our thoughts and actions by telling ourselves “it’s only fair.” Sometimes life isn’t fair.

Life certainly wasn’t fair for Isaac, yet he continues to trust God, even if trusting God meant losing money, a job, or moving to a place like of dust and waste (like Bakersfield). Even still, Isaac trusts God.

Trusting God and being a good witness are some of the greatest qualities in Isaac. He continues to be a blessing to his community, even when they turn on him, he does not stop showing them the love of God. These people didn’t deserve grace; they deserved judgment for taking what is not theirs, just like us, but Isaac models patience and goodness, just like Christ does for us.

Isaac’s faith and integrity also extended into his finances, and his business. Owning and running your own business, big or small, is no easy task. Starting your own business can be a risk, because if that business fails, or is stolen from you, that’s money you lost. This is exactly what happens to Isaac. (Genesis 26:16, 20-21) Instead of Isaac complaining about how people are mean and how his job is gone, he goes to work and builds again, and again, and again. We see Isaac go through times of affluence and times where budgets were strict. No matter what his bank account looked like, he was still righteous with his money. He trusted God to provide for him and his family’s needs. He was in God’s will, doing what God called him to, being a man of faith in both thought and action.

Although Isaac often falls short of being a faithful family leader, he never shies away from growth. In a way, he cowers at the beginning of chapter 26. *“When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, “She is my sister,” for he feared to say, “My wife,” thinking, “lest the men of the place should kill me because of Rebekah,” because she was attractive in appearance.”* But when he gets called out, his reaction is repentance and humility. When he fails his family, he turns and seeks God’s will. Even when his family fails him, and he has to deal with his son bringing bitterness into his life, he trusts God continually. He reacts in faith, trusting God to be good and to provide even when his family causes him grief.

Isaac did not live a life most of us would want to live, but he lived his life in a way that glorified God. In good times and bad, he praised God. God often tests us through hardship, to soften our hearts and mold our faith. Through hardship we are forged into a people who trust who are to honor God with all that we have. We are to live with on mission with a goal in life that remains faithful to bring God glory.

Isaac get tested over and over again, yey we see God remains faithful and trustworthy. We should be a people striving to live like Isaac and honor God with everything He has given us.