

SERIES TITLE: #LivingByFaith

PART 3: THROUGH SYMBOLS

TEXT: GENESIS 23

INTRODUCTION.

The life of the great patriarch Abraham comprises a large portion of Genesis. As we continue studying through the entire book, we learn from Abraham what it means to live by faith.

DISCUSSION.

Where are your family members buried and why?

EXAMINATION.

- 23:1-9 The Hittites refer to Abraham as a “mighty prince” or “prince of God.” What does that reveal about his reputation and presence in the community?
- Why do you think Abraham insists on paying full price?
- 23:10-16 There are a lot of specific details included here. Which ones stand out to you and why?
- 23:17-20 The Hebrew word *~ynIP'* *paniyim* occurs six times in this chapter (vv.3, 4, 8, 12, 17, and 19). Although different translations treat it differently or ignore it altogether, the word means to be in sight of, in the presence of, in front of. Can you determine how it is used in each of those verses?

APPLICATION.

- Chapter 23 is often applied as an example of how to deal with death and grief. What clues in this story show that not to be the main point?
- What promises do you believe God has made to you and how do you know?
- If those promises are still in the future, what are some ways you can invest in them as a sign of your trust that God will come through?
- If all God’s promises are “Yes” in Christ (2 Cor. 1:20), what does that mean for you?

- Read Hebrews 11:13. Notice that this refers to Abraham and Sarah. Is it possible that there are promises that we will die without receiving? Why or why not?
- What symbolic action have you taken, or can you take as an expression of faith in God's promises?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?