

Family Worship Guide - Week 9

READ

Day One –

- ❖ **Genesis 23**
- ❖ One of the great love stories of history comes to an end as Abraham's beloved Sarah dies. What a life they had lived together! Even though they lived in Canaan, the promised land, they were still sojourners. The fulfillment of Abraham possessing the land was yet to be. But because of the way he lived and how he treated the people there, he was considered 'a mighty prince' among them. Abraham paid for a piece of land to bury his wife even though the owner Ephron was willing to give it to him. It is touching to realize the first piece of land he actually owned in Canaan was that of Sarah's resting place.
- ❖ **Bottom Line:** Abraham was willing to do whatever it took to properly honor Sarah, his love for her and her faithfulness to God.
- ❖ **Questions:** Verse two says Abraham 'went to mourn for Sarah and to weep over her'. What is the difference? Why did Abraham offer to buy land instead of just taking it? Do you think he worried that his show of humility would be seen as weakness?

Day Two –

Genesis 24:1-4; 10-14; 45-51; 57-59; and 61-67

- ❖ These chapters are good reminders that those we read about in the Bible were 'people just like us'. A funeral in the last chapter, a marriage in this one. Real life things! We do find the way Isaac and Rebekah met to be very different than present day 'dating'. Abraham sent his most trusted servant on this most important mission. A mission in the lineage of Christ. Rebekah (and her family) showed great faith in the integrity of Abraham's servant, in the great name of Abraham himself and in God. It is hard to imagine letting your most precious thing - your child - leave to go to another country to marry someone neither of you has ever met. They knew they most likely would never see her again. What a sacrifice. Isaac has the blessing of a beautiful wife and is finally comforted three years after his mother's death.
- ❖ **Bottom Line:** To do things our way can cause us to completely miss out on what God has for us. His ways are so, so much higher.
- ❖ **Questions:** Why did Abraham send his servant instead of Isaac himself? What are some of the actions that show how much Abraham trusted this servant? Rebekah most likely had no idea about the covenant God had made with Abraham. The servant found her courteous, hard working and humble. What can we learn from her example? What was Isaac doing when he saw the group on their camels coming home?

Day Three:

- ❖ **Genesis 25:7-11; 19-34**

- ❖ Abraham died at age 175 - 'full of years'. He was buried in the same field as Sarah. Isaac and Rebekah were still childless and Isaac prayed often that God would give them children. Jewish tradition says that he took Rebekah to Mt. Moriah where God promised He would multiply Abraham's seed and there, in his prayer with her and for her, pleaded the promise made in that very place. God answered their prayer and she became pregnant with twins. The struggle between them began before they were even born. Esau was born first followed by Jacob. Esau, the hunter became Isaac's favorite and Jacob, 'the tent dweller' was the favorite of Rebekah. Jacob took advantage of Esau's hunger and bargained for his birthright for some stew. Esau gave up something so very important far too easily.
- ❖ **Bottom Line:** As Isaac did on Mt. Moriah, we should remember God's faithfulness as we pray for present needs.
- ❖ **Questions:** Who buried Abraham? Knowing the story of what happened with Abraham and Isaac on Mt. Moriah, what do you think it was like for him to go back there? What do you think it was like for Rebekah? Is it good for parents to choose favorites? What does it say about Esau's heart that he gave his birthright up so easily?

Day Four:

- ❖ **Genesis 26:6-35**
- ❖ The Lord directed Isaac to take his family to Gerar, in the area of the Philistines. Rebekah's beauty caused an immediate stir. He said she was his sister to protect himself. (Would that protect her also?) They stayed, prospered and grew in that place until Abimelech the king sent them away because the Philistines became afraid of them. There are many mentions of wells in this passage - seems odd to us but wells were essential to life. Without them, they would not survive. Abimelech eventually came to Isaac to make an oath and covenant of peace between them.
- ❖ **Bottom Line:** Even those who do not trust in God recognize those that the Lord is 'with'.
- ❖ **Questions:** 'She is my sister' - where have we heard that lie before? Isaac was very prosperous in crops and livestock. Why is that surprising? What were the herdsmen often quarreling over? Why did Abimelech, Ahuzzath, and Phichol want make an oath with Isaac? What can we learn from that? What did Esau do to cause his parents grief?

Day Five:

- ❖ **Psalm 6**
- ❖ David's example teaches us to take every pain to the Lord. Physical pain? Take it to Him. Spiritual pain because of sin or God's discipline? Confess and pray for mercy and healing. Enemies? Give them to Him.

Vengeance belongs to the Lord! By the end of the passage, He knows the Lord has heard and accepts his prayer. Amen.

- ❖ **Bottom Line:** We are weak. God is strong.
- ❖ **Questions:** Do you ever think of King David as being weak? Have you ever asked the question he did, 'How long, Lord, how long? Think and talk about the things that cause you deep anguish. Pray together about those things believing God hears your prayer.

PRAY

- ❖ Pray for Agricola Baptist Church. Pray that our church will continue to make disciples all around us. Pray for our church partners all around the world. Pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in other nation who face persecution.

MEMORIZE

- ❖ **Psalm 6:9** "The Lord has heard my plea; the Lord accepts my prayer."