

Genesis 26 Bible Devotions

☐ Monday - Stay Put.

Genesis 26:1-3

“Now there was a famine in the land, besides the previous famine that had occurred in the days of Abraham. ... And the Lord appeared to [Isaac] and said, ‘Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you. Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham’” (Gen. 26:1-3). In the days of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, Egypt was a superpower. On the other hand, life in Canaan, the “land of promise”, was not always easy – famines tested the patriarchs resolve to stay in the land God had promised. Repeatedly they fled to Egypt for relief (Abraham-Gen. 12:10-20; Joseph-Gen. 42:1-2). “Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction” (1 Cor. 10:11), and the lesson is this: When trials come, God’s people are not to run to the world for answers, but stand on God’s promises. Read Proverbs 14:12, 19:21

☐ Tuesday - Umbrella of Blessing.

Genesis 26:4

God said to Isaac, “And I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws” (Gen. 26:4). O what blessings befall the children of those whose heart is completely His. Read Proverbs 14:26; 2 Chronicles 16:9

☐ Wednesday - Passing Patterns.

Genesis 26:6-11

When Isaac was confronted by Abimelech at Gerar (Gen. 26:6-11), he repeated the deception learned from his father, Abraham (cf. Gen. 12:10-20; 20:1-18). Children are constantly recording the patterns learned from the previous generation, only to replay our example when faced with similar circumstances. And so, we must pass on godly patterns, not just godly principles, Read Romans 2:17-23 and substitute the word “Christian” for the word “Jew”.

☐ Thursday - Peacemakers

Genesis 26:12-17, 26-33

We are Christian soldiers, and yet the world has nothing to fear from us: we do not desire their property, nor seek their demise. We are peacemakers (Mt. 5:9) and ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:20); our sword is a book (Eph. 6:17); our orders “love your enemy” (Mt. 5:44-47); “when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure” (1 Cor. 4:12). Read Romans 12:14-13:10

☐ Friday - The Ultimate Priority

Genesis 26:25

“So [Isaac] built an altar there, and called upon the name of the Lord, and pitched his tent there” (Gen. 26:25). The order in which these activities are listed should suggest to us the priority of worship, even above living arrangements. When life becomes a constant struggle to fit worship around a multitude of other activities, then we have gone off course. The worship of God is the Christian’s ultimate priority – everything else in life must fit around that. Read Psa. 27:4