

Series: Lessons from God's Servants

Lesson 5: "Isaac: A Man of Triumphs and Failures"

***Announcements, encouragement to invite people and opening prayer.**



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** Who comes to mind when you think of someone who was an exceptional human being but had a time when he or she wasn't?

Transition: We have a tendency to set expectations very high for other people. We are quick to criticize and even write them off when they fall. It is a great blessing for us that our Creator is not like that. God is slow to anger and abounds in love. God longs to bless us because He sees beyond the obvious.

Bottom Line: It is good news that God long to bless us in spite of our flaws.

LESSON PLAN

Let's begin by revisiting the early life of Isaac and a truly great moment in his life.

Background: We learned last week that Isaac was 20+ years old at the time he was placed on the altar by Abraham to be offered as a sacrifice to God? We saw that He never put up a fight and he probably could have taken his dad at this age. He definitely could have escaped. He was submissive to his father to the point of death. God provided a ram caught in the thicket to be a sacrifice in place of Isaac. It would seem that the faith of the father that brought God's favor was just as powerfully living within the son, Isaac. God sets Isaac free and delivers Abraham from a devastating act. Just as Abraham was an image or picture of the Heavenly Father who would sacrifice His only son, Isaac was a willing sacrifice, a type or an image of Christ who obeyed His Father to and beyond death.

Read Genesis 26:1-7

1. Where does God tell Isaac Not to settle and why?
2. What promise does God make to Isaac?



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Question: What promises of eternal blessings does God pass on through us and how does He do that today?

We are the family of God covering the earth and the family of God who will reign with Him forever. We pass it on by our relationships, witness, influence, kindness, commitment to His truth, etc.

3. How does Isaac commit the same sin as his father, Abraham?

Question: Why are we so afraid to trust God?

Question: What are some ways Christians, God's people today, create false identities because they are afraid of the people they live among?

Read Genesis 26:8-11

4. The king sees them laughing together. The word implies affection. He realizes this is not a brother and sister moment. What does the king do?

He doesn't punish Isaac. Instead he warns the men of Gerar that anyone touching Rebecca will be killed. It's interesting that this was not keeping in character with a king, especially of the Philistines. However, it is either the king or the son of the king who made a covenant with Abraham of peace because he saw that God was with him all the time (Gen. 21:22).

Question: What mistakes do Christians make while trying to fit into our culture and keep from being targeted for ridicule or worse?

Read Genesis 26:12-16

5. How greatly did the Lord bless Isaac?



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Question: What can we learn from the fact that God richly blessed Isaac AFTER he had sinned and almost created chaos and death among the people where he was living?

6. How did the Philistines respond to seeing the power of God in Isaac's life?

Question: What lesson can we learn from the blessings of God on Isaac?

Read Genesis 26:17-25

7. What happened next as God continued to bless Isaac?

Question: Why do you think Isaac and his servants didn't just put up a fight?

Question: Is there a lesson from Isaac for us today in his choice to move on?

Read Genesis 26:26-33

8. Isaac finally finds a home and builds an altar to God at Beersheba. Why did King Abimelech with his adviser and the commander of his army to see Isaac at Beersheba?

9. How does Isaac treat them?

10. How does God richly bless Isaac and the people after he shows extreme kindness?

The strike water immediately and the well is named Shibah, which means, oath or seven. The town is named Beersheba, which means well of the oath or well of the seven.



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Question: What insight for living does this moment with Isaac give us on living to be a witness for God?

Final Question: What is the one idea that stands out to you most from this lesson?