

## *Patriarchs Study and Discussion Questions*

### *Lesson Five: Isaac, Abraham's Heir – Genesis 23-26*

#### Overview

- 1) Skim Genesis 23. Describe the occasion on which Abraham purchased the only piece of land he ever owned in Canaan. See also Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16.
  
- 2) How have previous chapters substantiated this statement: “The Lord blessed [Abraham] in every way” (Genesis 24:1)?
  
- 3) From Ephesians 1:3, list “every spiritual blessing” you are aware of in your possession. Write a prayer of praise to God for blessing, caring for, and loving you just as much as He loved the patriarch Abraham.

#### Read Genesis 24.

- 4) Which verse tells us why Abraham insisted that Isaac should not return to the country of Abraham's family?
  
- 5) Connect Genesis 22:20-24 with Abraham's request to his servant in 24:4.
  
- 6) What do you learn from chapter 24 about the character of Abraham's servant, Rebekah's character, and prayer? How will you apply it to your life today?

Read Genesis 25:1-18.

- 7) How are verses 1-4 related to Genesis 15:5 and 17:5?
  
- 8) Hagar received promises and prophecy from God regarding her son Ishmael (Genesis 16:10, 12, and 21:18). Which of these find (or begin to find) fulfillment in Genesis 25:12-18?
  
- 9) How do these records of God's faithfulness to keep all His promises encourage you in your own circumstances today?

Read Genesis 25:19-23.

- 10) What sorrow did Abraham's wife Sarah and Isaac's wife Rebekah share?
  
- 11) What is the significance of this in light of God's promise to make Abraham's descendants as numerous as the stars (Genesis 15:5)?
  
- 12) Rebekah asked the Lord, "Why is this happening to me?" (25:22). Is this a good question for a confused person to ask God? Why or why not?

Read Genesis 25:24-26:34.

- 13)** The eldest son inherited a double portion of the family estate (twice as much as any younger sons inherited) and ranked second in authority under his father. This was considered his birthright. In light of God's rich promises to Abraham recorded earlier in Genesis, what is the significance of Esau despising his birthright and trading it away so easily? Which prophecy in chapter 25 will Esau's oath likely fulfill?
- 14)** List all the similarities between Isaac's experience and Abraham's experience with Abimelech (recorded in Genesis 20 and 21:22-34).
- 15)** Which of your personal qualities will you ask God to reproduce in your children (and others who are influenced by you), and which personal weaknesses will you ask Him to correct in you, in order to break an existing or potential generational cycle?