



"Fear not, for I am with you." Genesis 26:24b

Bible Study:



Read Genesis 26. Contemplate God's promise to be a loving father. How has this helped you trust and obey in the face of adversity?

The gospel in the story:



God had a plan for Isaac and his family in the oath sworn to his father Abraham, that God would make a nation that would bless the world. Jesus is Good News because through His death, burial and Resurrection, He stood in the gap to **restore a broken relationship with Father God**.

Our God is a caring and nurturing Father, and we get a glimpse of that in Genesis 21 as God cared for Isaac and his household, despite fears, sins and troubles. Though Isaac had fears, he also trusted God. And God provided for Isaac's families spiritual needs even when material needs were troubling. God's faithfulness was so apparent, that it caused the king of the Philistines to proclaim God's glory. Isaac's right response shows up when he constructs an alter at Beer-sheba to worship and thank God for His provision.

That's a great picture of the good news of Jesus; the bad news is that sin separates us from Father God, but through Jesus God's presence and faithfulness can become so evident in our lives that the world takes notice!

Application

Head: **What did we learn?**

Q: Why did Isaac and his family move to Gerar? A: There was a famine in Canaan.

Q: What happened to Isaac and his family while they stayed in Gerar? A: They became very prosperous

Q: How did God prove to Isaac that He was trustworthy? A: By providing through adversity.

Heart : **Memory verse**

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Hands: **How does this affect the way I live?**

Be thankful to God who will provide for all of your needs. Spending regular time with Him in scripture and prayer helps draw you closer to Him and His heart.

Home: **How does this affect my household?**

Though it may be ridiculously hard, it's very powerful to discuss these truths and pray together as family, living out the one-anothers discussed in scripture.

Heaven: **How does this help us share our faith?**

Obedience motivated by a heart transformed by God's grace is a compelling witness to our neighbors, just like in this story, Isaac obediently traveled to Gerar (rather than Egypt). King Abimelech recognized that Isaac was the "blessed of the Lord." Not necessarily by Isaac's doings, but by seeing God's provision for Isaac and his family.