

## A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1:

The Story of Isaac  
Genesis 26

Slide 2:

Abraham = 14 chapters in Genesis  
Jacob = 11 chapters  
Joseph = 12 chapters  
Isaac = 1 chapter

Slide 3:

Genesis 26:1-6 (ESV)

Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines. And the LORD appeared to him and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.” So Isaac settled in Gerar.

Slide 4:  
Same Problems  
Same Promise

Slide 5:  
Deuteronomy 11:10-12 (ESV)  
For the land that you are entering to take possession of it is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and irrigated it, like a garden of vegetables. But the land that you are going over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water by the rain from heaven, a land that the LORD your God cares for. The eyes of the LORD your God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.

Slide 6:  
Genesis 26:7-11 (ESV)  
When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, “She is my sister,” for he feared to say, “My wife,” thinking, “lest the men of the place should kill me because of Rebekah,” because she was attractive in appearance. When he had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw Isaac laughing with Rebekah his wife. So Abimelech called Isaac and said, “Behold, she is your wife. How then could you say, ‘She is my sister’?” Isaac said to him, “Because I thought, ‘Lest I die because of her.’ ” Abimelech said, “What is this

you have done to us? One of the people might easily have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us.” So Abimelech warned all the people, saying, “Whoever touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.”

Slide 7:

A lack of trust in God is at odds with the blessing of the Promise. How can all nations be blessed when they doubt our honesty?

Slide 8:

Genesis 26:12-16 (ESV)

And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The LORD blessed him, and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy. He had possessions of flocks and herds and many servants, so that the Philistines envied him. (Now the Philistines had stopped and filled with earth all the wells that his father’s servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father.) And Abimelech said to Isaac, “Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we.”

Slide 9:

The Philistines can't trust Isaac's wealth (as power) because they feel like Isaac is untrustworthy.

Slide 10:

Genesis 26:17-22 (ESV)

So Isaac departed from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar and settled there. And Isaac dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of Abraham his father, which the Philistines had stopped after the death of Abraham. And he gave them the names that his father had given them. But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of spring water, the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours." So he called the name of the well Esek, because they contended with him. Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that also, so he called its name Sitnah. And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, saying, "For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land."

Slide 11:  
Oh Well

Slide 12:  
Esek = Contention  
Sitnah = Enmity  
Rehoboth = Room

Slide 13:  
If your true love is the Giver, you don't have to fight for the gifts. If your true love is the gifts, you **MUST** fight for them.

Slide 14:

Genesis 26:23-33 (ESV)

From there he went up to Beersheba. And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, “I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham’s sake.” So he built an altar there and called upon the name of the LORD and pitched his tent there. And there Isaac’s servants dug a well.

When Abimelech went to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath his adviser and Phicol the commander of his army, Isaac said to them, “Why have you come to me, seeing that you hate me and have sent me away from you?” They said, “We see plainly that the LORD has been with you. So we said, let there be a sworn pact between us, between you and us, and let us make a covenant with you, that you will do us no harm, just as we have not touched you and have done to you nothing but good and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of the LORD.” So he made them a feast, and they ate and drank. In the morning they rose early and exchanged oaths. And Isaac sent them on their way, and they departed from him in peace. That same day Isaac’s servants came and told him about the well that they had dug and said to him, “We have found

water.” He called it Shibah; therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.

Slide 15:

- 1) He travels to Beersheba (Place God was present)
- 2) God appears to him
- 3) He builds an altar and worships
- 4) He pitched his tents (makes a home)
- 5) He dug a well, and found water

## **B. GROUP DISCUSSION**

1) Read Genesis 26. This is the Story of Isaac. What stands out to you that may be informative to his nature, how he sees and relates to God, and possible lessons for us today?

2) What were the consequences, both practically and relationally, for Isaac when he lied to the "others" about his wife being his sister?

3) Why did the Philistines want Isaac to leave their land? Why did they feel that way about him?

4) If Isaac is so powerful, why didn't he fight for his wells? Why doesn't he stand up for his rights? Isn't he allowing injustice? Explain your thinking on all of this. Is Isaac being pushed around, or is he being righteous?

5) Do you think your heart is centered on the Giver or the gifts? How would you even know the difference?

6) Prayer and praise