

I. Tough Lessons and Healthy Blessings (17-18)

“So Isaac departed from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar and settled there. 18 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.”

A. Isaac was learning life (26:1) - “Now there was a famine in the land...”

B. Isaac was learning to trust (26:2-5) - “Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you...”

C. Isaac was battling generational sin (26:6-11) - **Abraham told the same lies for the same reasons years prior**

D. Isaac was entrusted with prosperity (26:12-16) - “The LORD blessed him, 13 and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy.”

II. Hard Work and Long Fights (19-22)

A. Isaac’s reward of refreshment (19) - “But when Isaac’s servants dug in the valley and found there a well of spring water...”

B. Isaac’s fight over territory (20-21) - “...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.”

C. Isaac’s refusal to quit (22) - “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.”

III. Powerful Encounter and Spiritual Breakthrough (23-25)

A. His first encounter with God (23-24) - “From there he went up to Beersheba. (24) 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.”

B. His instinct to worship and praise (25a) - “So he built an altar there and called upon the name of the LORD and pitched his tent there.”

C. His continuance in faith and hard work (25b) - “And there Isaac’s servants dug a well.” **Hard work & hiddenness**

***Isaac is well into adulthood before he builds his first altar; Abraham is recorded as having built 4 altars to God, but Isaac never built one of his own while his daddy was alive**

***His association with altars was not necessarily positive; his own father laid him on one when he was younger (Genesis 22:1-19)**

***He knew how to obey in faith like his daddy obeyed (Gen. 26:2-6)**

***He knew how to lie like his daddy lied (Gen. 26:6-11)**

***He knew how to prosper like his daddy prospered (Gen. 26:12)**

***Isaac dug wells, but he didn’t build altars. He worked hard, but worshipped light.**

*****When Isaac’s work was fought, his obedience was tested, his endurance was opposed and his enemy tenacious...Isaac persevered and, when all was said and done, he built his first altar*****