

# Genesis 25:1-8

## May 12, 2024



### CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

### MAIN POINT

Though Abraham had many sons, his line is traced only through one: Isaac, the sole heir. Isaac fulfilled God's promise to Abraham, so the spiritual line of Israel is traced through his offspring.

### INTRODUCTION

*As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.*

**Have you ever inherited anything through a will or an object being passed down generation to generation? If so, what was it?**

**What are some physical or personality traits you have inherited from your parents or another relative?**

Inheritance is a concept most of us are familiar with today, but we may not put much value on it depending on our families or individual situations. But an inheritance was vitally important to ancient peoples. The privilege of being an heir came with prominence in position. Heirs stood to gain possessions and the reputation of their



fathers. Few of us focus much on these types of details in the twenty-first century. If we are honest, genealogies are those parts of the Bible we skip over and gloss through, waiting for something “better” to come along. Through many of the genealogies we read in Scripture, we see a line of physical descent, but we also see a line of God’s promise and His saving purpose that is made clearer as the line gets closer to Christ. Though Abraham had many children, there was only one heir. Isaac became the sole heir of the promise God gave to Abraham.

## **UNDERSTANDING**

*Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.*

 HAVE A FEW VOLUNTEERS READ GENESIS 25:1-6.

**What do these verses teach that Abraham did following the death of Sarah and the marriage of Isaac?**

**God was faithful to Abraham to give him many sons in his old age. For what purpose?**

Abraham took another wife named Keturah. The modifier “another” makes a distinction between Sarah and Keturah. Though Abraham married again, there was a difference between Keturah and Sarah, like there was a difference between Hagar and Sarah. Abraham continued to receive the blessing of many sons from Keturah, and three generations are noted in this short text. Children were seen as a sign of God’s blessing, and Abraham would have been pleased with God’s gift of more sons, but one son stood apart from the rest.

**How was Isaac distinguished from the other physical descendants of Abraham?**

**What obligations do you have to your own children? What duties do you have to fulfill toward them? How was Isaac’s inheritance different?**

Verse 5 tells us “Abraham gave everything he owned to Isaac.” Though Isaac had many brothers, he had no competitor for all that belonged to his father. When the Lord came to Abraham all those years ago, He promised a line that took its roots and its shape through a particular path. We have already seen how Abraham’s line was not to continue through Ishmael. Similarly, it would not continue through any of his sons with Keturah. Isaac was the son of the promise and the one true heir to all that belonged to his father.

**What measures did Abraham take to make sure Isaac was provided for? Why might he tend so strenuously to his son Isaac?**



## **What are some ways we can steward our own children as future heirs to the promises of God?**

Abraham believed in God's promises and God's will for Isaac, so he sent all of Isaac's competitors away to ensure God's promise would continue. In this, Abraham exercised faith. He was not trying to shape God's will to his desires but rather letting God's Word shape his action. All of us who have children must steward our children in light of the promises of God. All children are a heritage from the Lord (Psalm 127:3) to be taught to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength (Deuteronomy 6:5-9).

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ GENESIS 25:7-8.

**Having studied Abraham's life, what are a few words or characteristics you would use to describe him?**

**How did God remain faithful to Abraham? Why was his death the signal of a major transition in biblical history?**

Abraham was a good man but far from perfect. He was involved in a few less than ethical situations, but beyond all those situations, we remember Abraham primarily for his faith. God used Abraham to jump-start His plan to redeem His people. And God was faithful to do all He promised through Abraham.

After the death of Abraham, the story of God's faithfulness transitioned to the line of Isaac, the son of the promise. No one can stop God's plan. His love is so great for us that He did everything to secure an unbroken line of faithfulness, which we continue to see as we turn over to the first page of our New Testament. God's faithfulness to Abraham points to His greater faithfulness in Jesus Christ. Every follower of Christ is a descendant, through faith, to the first patriarch, Abraham.

### **APPLICATION**

*Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.*

**Abraham stewarded God's promise through Isaac. What responsibilities do older or more mature believers have to those younger in the faith?**

**Who is your spiritual mother or father? Who taught you the faith and helped you connect with God?**

**How do you see the sovereign hand of God at work in Abraham's life? How do you see His hand at work in your own life?**



## **PRAYER**

*Close your time together by sharing prayer requests, praying for each other, and the group.*

Praise God for the way He used Abraham to form a covenant based on faith. Praise God for including you in this covenant and ask Him to continue to bless you and grow your faith in Him.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

*Encourage your group to look ahead to next week's scripture passage as we begin a new study, **Faith and Works: A Study of James.***

**May 19, 2024 --- James 1:1-4**

## **COMMENTARY**

### **Genesis 25:1-8**

**25:1-4.** We enter a transition chapter as the new generation, Jacob and Esau, appear on the scene with Isaac presiding in the background. At the age of 140, Abraham got a new lease on life through his marriage to Keturah. Although some argue that Keturah had been a concubine, the use of the Hebrew word for wife raises some question about this. If we take the text literally, Abraham married a woman who was not formerly a part of his entourage and had six more children. The idea of Keturah as a previous concubine now promoted to wife rests upon a reference in 1 Chronicles 1:32.

Among the six children Midian was unquestionably the best known of the tribes, although others occasionally appear at points in the Old Testament. On the one hand, these six children were a great blessing and a fulfillment of the promise of many nations (Gen. 12:2; 17:4). Nevertheless, like Ishmael, the descendants of Midian would come back to haunt Israel, as Gideon could tell us. Judges 6 begins with the words, "Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds" (Judges. 6:1-2).

**25:5-8.** Although Moses introduces Abraham's second family, he leaves no doubt in his readers' minds that Isaac remained the single descendant of promise. Before his death Abraham gave gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them away from his son Isaac. Kidner offers an interesting comment on these verses: "It is hard to resist a comparison between verses 5, 6 and the rebuke given to some of Isaac's successors in



Luke 15:31, 32. In God's plan, these sons were sent away that there might be a true home, in the end, to return to! (see Isa. 60:6ff.)"

Finally, Abraham breathed his last breath. Although we are given no details about his death, the text elaborates the place of his burial (vv. 9-10). Abraham's quiet death fulfilled God's promise to him in Genesis 15:15: "You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age."

