**Lesson 18 Genesis 26**

**Isaac & Abimelech**

1. When famine threatened Isaac, what did God say to him and why?

2. A. What were God’s promises to Isaac? Gen.26:3-5

 3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I will give all these lands, in fulfillment of the oath that I swore to your father Abraham.

4 I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky, and I will give them all these lands, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth will find blessing—

 5 this because Abraham obeyed me, keeping my mandate, my commandments, my ordinances, and my instructions.

 B. What two things are these promises based upon?

3. How did Isaac respond to God’s commands and promises?

4. What does Isaac’s response tell you about him? Compare Gen.20:1-2.

 1 From there Abraham journeyed on to the region of the Negeb, where he settled between Kadesh and Shur.\* While he resided in Gerar as an alien,

 2 Abraham said of his wife Sarah, “She is my sister.” So Abimelech, king of Gerar, sent and took Sarah.

5. Why might it be more dangerous for a woman’s husband than for her brother?

6. Despite Isaac’s lack of trust, how did God continue to treat him? Gen.26:12-33.

12 Isaac sowed a crop in that region and reaped a hundredfold the same year. Since the LORD blessed him,

13 he became richer and richer all the time, until he was very wealthy.

14 He acquired flocks and herds, and a great work force, and so the Philistines became envious of him.

15 The Philistines had stopped up and filled with dirt all the wells that his father’s servants had dug back in the days of his father Abraham.

16 So Abimelech said to Isaac, “Go away from us; you have become far too numerous for us.”

17 Isaac left there and camped in the Wadi Gerar where he stayed.

18 Isaac reopened the wells which his father’s servants had dug back in the days of his father Abraham and which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham’s death; he gave them names like those that his father had given them.

19 But when Isaac’s servants dug in the wadi and reached spring water in their well,

20 the shepherds of Gerar argued with Isaac’s shepherds, saying, “The water belongs to us!” So he named the well Esek,\* because they had quarreled there.

21 Then they dug another well, and they argued over that one too; so he named it Sitnah.\*

22 So he moved on from there and dug still another well, but over this one they did not argue. He named it Rehoboth,\* and said, “Because the LORD has now given us ample room, we shall flourish in the land.”

23 From there Isaac went up to Beer-sheba.

24 The same night the LORD appeared to him and said: I am the God of Abraham, your father. Do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for the sake of Abraham, my servant.

25 So Isaac built an altar there and invoked the LORD by name. After he had pitched his tent there, Isaac’s servants began to dig a well nearby.

26 Then Abimelech came to him from Gerar, with Ahuzzath, his councilor, and Phicol, the general of his army.

27 Isaac asked them, “Why have you come to me, since you hate me and have driven me away from you?”

28 They answered: “We clearly see that the LORD has been with you, so we thought: let there be a sworn agreement between our two sides—between you and us. Let us make a covenant with you:

29 you shall do no harm to us, just as we have not maltreated you, but have always acted kindly toward you and have let you depart in peace. So now, may you be blessed by the LORD!”

30 Isaac then made a feast for them, and they ate and drank.

31 Early the next morning they exchanged oaths. Then Isaac sent them on their way, and they departed from him in peace.

32 That same day Isaac’s servants came and informed him about the well they had been digging; they told him, “We have reached water!”

33 He called it Shibah;\* hence the name of the city is Beer-sheba to this day.

7. What does this tell you about God?

8. What seems to be the problem between Isaac and Abimelech?

9. *Challenge Question:* What do you learn about each man from the way they settle their dispute and reconcile?

10. Why do you think Esau’s marriage brought grief to Isaac and Rebekah?