

ISAAC

Read Hebrews 11:17-20

God had promised Abraham and Sarah that they would conceive a child (Genesis 17:19). When Abraham was 100 and his wife Sarah was 90 years old, being beyond the proper time of life, Isaac was born.

Isaac lived 180 years, longer than any other patriarch, and yet less is said about him than any of the others. He is considered to have been a passive man and probably more of a follower than a leader. What is seen most from Isaac's life is his submissive will toward God, a quality of faith you see throughout his life.

Read Genesis 22:1-18

1. From reading this passage, what character traits do you think Isaac had?
2. This is hard to believe! From this experience what do you think Isaac learned about:
God

Abraham

NOTE: 2000 years later Christ our Lord was sacrificed on this same mountain. He sacrificed Himself in obedience to His Father.

Read Genesis 24 or 24:34-67

In Isaac's time it was common for a father to take the initiative in a son's marriage. The finding of Isaac's wife is a beautiful example of putting our faith in God.

3. How is Isaac's faith seen regarding the choosing of a wife? (For help compare Isaac's faith to Esau's choice in Genesis 26:34.)
4. In verse 63 Isaac went out to meditate in the field. Knowing what was going on in his life, what do you think he was praying about?

5. Patience is a quality of faith. God rewarded Isaac for his patience. Why do you find it hard to wait upon the Lord and allow Him to give you the desires of your heart? (Psalm 37:4)

6. In what ways are the following verses a comfort to us today in times of waiting?
Deuteronomy 7:9

Hebrews 10:23

Psalm 37:4

Remembering God's faithfulness in the past, helps us to trust Him with the present, and have faith in Him for our future.

Read Genesis 25, or 25:5-11 and 19-34

In Genesis 25:11 God's blessings and promises are now passed on to Isaac at the death of his father Abraham. (Genesis 15:18; 17:7, 8; 22:17, 18; Romans 9:7) Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah for his wife.

7. God had promised Isaac He would multiply his seed. Isaac and Rebekah waited 20 years before they had a child. Unlike his father he did not take matters into his own hands (Genesis 16).

a. When faced with the same problem, what did Isaac do?

b. Why do you think God gave Isaac a barren wife?

8. God waited for Isaac to earnestly pray before he gave him what he wanted. What are you praying for today?

Read Genesis 26:1-14

9. Isaac has his own personal encounter with God. In verses 3-4 God not only confirms His former promise to Isaac, but also gives him new ones. In verse 3 what words did God speak that should have kept Isaac from worry and fear?

10. How does Isaac prove to be faithless after God's direct promise? (verse 7)

11. a. In spite of Isaac's lack of faith in this situation, how did God bless him?
(verses 12-14)

b. What does this teach you about Isaac?

c. What does this teach you about God?

12. Can you share a situation in your life where you did not trust God and the lessons you learned from it?

Read Genesis 26:15-35

13. After God blesses Isaac, he receives new and severe trials testing his faith. What happens (verses 15-23)? (Remember God's promise to Isaac in Genesis 26:3, "I will give you all these lands".)

14. Why do you think Isaac responded the way he did?

Many times God wants us to learn patience while waiting on Him.

15. When Isaac returns to Beersheba (Genesis 26:23), what events take place?

16. How did God reward Isaac for his patient faith? (Genesis 26:31)

17. What opposition or difficulty are you facing today?

How can Isaac's example help you to go forward and trust God with your situation?

Read Genesis 27:27-29, 39- 40; Genesis 28:1-4.

Review your memory verse: Hebrews 11:1.

Read Hebrews 11:9 and 11:20.

At the end of Isaac's life we see him by faith trusting that God would fulfill the promise He made to Abraham, Isaac and their descendants. Isaac died without seeing the fulfillment of God's promises, but he died with the conviction that one day they would be fulfilled. So by faith, he blessed his sons "...regarding the things to come." Isaac had the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen.

Failure, submission, belief and obedience have all been seen in the life of Isaac. There is a lot to learn from his example.

18. What weakness of Isaac's can be a warning to us today?

19. What aspect of Isaac's relationship with God do you want to remember for yourself?

20. How has Isaac's example of faith been a help to you?

Wendy Baranco/lp