

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

As the people of God, we should be committed to reading Scripture every day. Here are daily readings and questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and we would be honored to provide one. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number of the book. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

Monday, May 15th – Genesis 21:1-21

This week we return to the covenant that God has been making with Abraham for 25 years, and finally see its fulfillment. Read verses 1-5. What happens? What does this say about God? Notice what Abraham does in verses 4 and 5. This demonstrates the obedience of Abraham to his end of the covenant. Isaac is circumcised at 8 days old. He now not only shares in the covenant, but will be the person from whom the covenant will continue. How does Sarah respond to this good news (vss. 6-7)? Things seem calm for a while, but what happens a few years later (vss. 8-10)? Why do you think this creates such anger in Sarah? What is Abraham's reaction (vs. 11)? Now look at what God says in response to all of this (vss. 12-13). How does that make you feel, that God is willing to allow Hagar and Ismael to go away? What does Abraham do (vs. 14)? Could you have done that? What does this say about Abraham's faith in God's faithfulness and His ability to provide? What happens to Hagar and Ismael (vss. 15-21)? What does this reveal to you about God and his mercy? Consider why it was probably a good idea for the two boys to be separated. What might have happened if they had not separated? In the heat of our moments, we could see this kind of decision as mean or unloving. How does it point to the fact that this direction was actually best for both boys? What does this teach you about God and His ways? What does this teach you about yourself?

Tuesday, May 16th – Genesis 21:22-34

We have talked about covenant-making by God for most of the past few weeks. Today we see how that covenant-making looks between humans. Read verses 22-24. Who has returned and why? Note that Abimelech has come with his army commander. What do you think has prompted this (vs. 25)? How does Abimelech respond to Abraham's complaint? So, something had been said to Abimelech or he would not have come out with the commander of his army. Maybe he did not hear Abraham's version of the story. How do they resolve the conflict (vs. 26)? As you read verses 27-29, what additional thing does Abraham need to happen? Why do you think Abraham made this a separate deal? Why would the treaty not take care of this? How does Abraham mark the spot of the treaty (vs. 33)? We are then told that Abraham lived there for a long time. What does this tell us about how we should handle things? What do you think both Abraham and Abimelech wanted regarding sharing the land? How did they strive to live in peace? How can you put these lessons in place in your own life?

Wednesday, May 17th – Genesis 22:1-14

Today we turn to a more difficult text. It is important to focus on each verse as we read it, and not focus on the end of the story. What is God going to do, according to verse 1? What is the "test" that God places on Abraham (vs. 2)? How does Abraham respond to the test (vss. 3-6)? Notice that this did not all happen in one day. How many days did Abraham have to wait, before he saw where this was to occur (vs. 4)? Now read verses 7-8. Can you imagine having that

conversation with your child? What does Abraham tell Isaac about the sacrifice (vs. 8)? As you read verses 9-10, what does Abraham do? What kind of faith does this demonstrate? As Abraham's heart is convinced that he has to go through with the sacrifice, what happens (vss. 11-12)? What was the test on Abraham's faith (vs. 12)? How does this scene end (vss. 13-14)? What does this say about how deep and steadfast our faith in God and His sovereignty should be? How much stronger do you think Abraham's faith became after this testing? Have you ever considered why God would test Abraham? What is the natural human reaction when we have what we want and are content? Are we willing to give it up, even for God? Do we not sometimes believe our blessings came from our own hands? Where might God be testing your faith in your life? What do you love and cling to more than God? Your job? Your money? Your children? Your pleasures? Spend some time in prayer today, letting the Holy Spirit show you what you might need to give up in faith, putting God first instead of your desires.

Thursday, May 18th – Genesis 22:15-24

There are benefits and blessings to obedience, as we will see today. We start still on the mountain with Abraham and Isaac, the angel and the ram to be sacrificed. So, what does the Angel of the Lord declare from God on high (vss. 15-18)? Have you ever considered that you are a recipient of that blessing? You see, Jesus is the ultimate blessing that comes from Abraham's seed, Isaac. What happens next (vss. 19)? Now that Abraham and Isaac are settled down again, we get word about Abraham's brother back in Ur. What do we learn about his brother (vss. 20-24)? Why is this important (vs. 23)? This is the bridge that will carry us forward in our story. What did you learn today about being obedient? While it may be difficult, challenging and against our natural inclinations, there are usually great blessings when we do as God has ordained we should do. Where do you struggle with being obedient to the teachings and callings of God on your life? Where might you need to improve in the obedience category? What risks exist when we fail to obey? In your prayer time, repent for your disobedience and ask God to help you be obedient in your walk with Him.

Friday, May 19th – Genesis 23

We end this week on a sad note. What has happened (vs. 1)? As we have read repeatedly thus far, Abraham owns no land here. He is a sojourner amid many other clans. So, from whom does Abraham buy land (vss. 7-9)? What is the final sale price (vss. 10-16)? This is the cave that Sarah will live in. Can you imagine the grief that Abraham must have felt? This was his beloved wife for more years than we know. The mother of his son, his heir and the partner with Abraham in the covenantal relationship with God. Today we pause and remember Sarah. We remember her devotion to Abraham. We remember her being passed off as only a sister to save Abraham's life. We remember her impatience and lack of faith that God would produce an heir through her. We saw her serve, be angry and even sometimes downright mean. But even as imperfect as she was, we also know God was faithful and fulfilled his covenant through her. Consider how much you are like Sarah. You have really good days, where you are loving and faithful and serving. And you have really bad days, where you just get it all wrong. And yet God is faithful and can fulfill his covenant to the world through your testimony of His great love for you. Make sure you remember Sarah today, and share her story with someone. You might want to add in your own testimony, too.

Saturday, May 20th – Prepare for tomorrow by reading Genesis 24:1-11