

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 03 Mar.....	Genesis 21-23.....	A Substitute
2) 10 Mar.....	Genesis 24.....	Guidance Needed
3) 17 Mar.....	Genesis 25-27.....	A Deceiver
4) 24 Mar.....	Genesis 28-30.....	A Stairway
5) 31 Mar.....	John 20.....	Believe!
6) 07 Apr.....	Genesis 30-31.....	Blessed
7) 14 Apr.....	Genesis 32-33.....	Wrestled
8) 21 Apr.....	Genesis 34-36.....	Renewed
9) 28 Apr.....	Genesis 37.....	Dreamer
10) 05 May.....	Genesis 38-39.....	Accused
11) 12 May.....	Genesis 40-41.....	Revealed
12) 19 May.....	Genesis 42-46.....	Reconcile
13) 26 May.....	Genesis 47-50.....	Revenge?

INTRODUCTION

- When is it appropriate to take matters into our own hands?

Passage	Comments
Genesis 25:1-11	<p>Abraham Takes Another Wife and Some Concubines!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abraham had quite the legacy. His 1st wife, Sarai/Sarah bore him Isaac, the son of Promise Gen 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Sarah, earlier, gave her maid, Hagar, to Abraham, who bore him Ishmael at the age of 86 Gen 16 ♦ Then Abraham wed Keturah who gave him 6 sons ♦ v6. Here, it is stated Abraham had concubines. More than likely the concubines were Hagar & Keturah • vv7-8. Abraham died at 175 – “an old man & satisfied” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Was he satisfied because he had 3 wives? ♦ Or was he satisfied because he was in God’s will? • Polygamy Question? What do you do if a polygamous Mormon family accepts the Lord and comes to church? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Would you accept them wholeheartedly, and/or place constraints on them? What kind of constraints? ♦ Consider This. The early church did the following to minimize both polygamy (multiples wives) & divorce & remarriage (which is sequential polygamy)*: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They fully accept polygamous & blended families 2. They would not marry additional wives to a polygamous husband 3. They would not remarry a divorcee while their previous spouse was still living 4. Polygamous and divorced men or men who were married to a divorcee were not allowed to be elders or deacons
*Source:	Adams, Jay E. Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the Bible. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986. p 81.
25:12-18	<p>Ishmael’s Legacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-16. Ishmael also had 12 sons as Isaac did. • v18. Ishmael, for whatever reason, “settled in defiance of all his relatives” (NASB). An earlier passage states, “He’ll be a bucking bronco of a man, a real fighter, fighting and being fought, always stirring up trouble, always at odds with his family” (MSG) Gen 16:12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Yet God promised to make Ishmael a great nation as well – They became Arabic nations Gen 21:13, 18
25:19-34	<p>Isaac’s Twin Boys – Esau & Jacob</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v23. “...the older shall serve the younger...” – We seem to have favoritism from God (Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated – i.e., legal favoritism)..... Rom 9:13 • v28. We see that Esau was Isaac’s favorite, and Jacob was a momma’s boy. We have a recipe for disaster. • vv29-30. How should’ve Jacob waited on the Lord to fulfill the promise of “the older will serve the younger” instead of taking matters into his own hands?

Passage	Comments
When is it OK to Take Matters into Our Own Hands Without Running Ahead of God?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah took matters into her own hands and gave her handmaid, Hagar, to her husband, Abraham, to father a child – and that didn’t turn out too well Gen 16 • Jacob took matters into his own hand to inherit the birthright, and Esau vowed to kill him..... Gen 27:41 • Rebekah took matters into her own hands to deceive her husband, Isaac, to abscond with a blessing for Jacob, & Jacob never saw his mom alive again Gen 27 • Tamar (Gen 38:13-30) dressed up like a prostitute and got pregnant by her father-in-law, Judah, to claim her Biblical rights, and that barely turned out well..... Gen 38 • Moses thought he was doing God a service by rescuing His people his way, but he ended up a fugitive spending possibly 40 needless years in the desert Ex 2 • Phinehas took matters into his own hands and killed an adulterous couple & saved 1,000s from a plague..... Num 25 • King Saul took matters into his own hand and lost his crown, for partial obedience is disobedience ... 1Sam 15 • Abigail took matters into her own hands and saved her clan from destruction..... 1Samuel 25 • Naomi took matters into her own hands to get Ruth to propose to Boaz, and it worked out quite well..... Ruth 3 <p>Principle to Live By. If there is foolish or sinful behavior, then it is appropriate to seek proper recourse, otherwise one could invoke problems for one’s self & others for generations</p>
26:1-17	<p>Isaac Lies and Gets Blessed by God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. A famine causes people to move around <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Are such events God-orchestrated or God-ordained? ♦ Are the hurricanes, fires, & floods we see today God-orchestrated or are they caused by man’s poor stewardship of earth’s resources (God-ordained)? ♦ How should we respond if they’re God-orchestrated? • v5. Notice Isaac is blessed because of his dad’s obedience. Principle to Live by: If you want your family to be blessed tomorrow, obey God today! • vv6-13. Isaac lies about Rebekah being his sister (she’s actually his 2nd cousin) and seems to benefit financially from the protection provided by Abimelech after the lie was discovered. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ So, is lying GOOD? ♦ Is lying hereditary (a generational curse) since Isaac’s dad did it too? ♦ Is there ever a time to lie without it being sinful?



BOY, HAVE I GOT A DEAL FOR YOU, BRO...

Passage	Comments
Is it ever OK to Lie?	<p>Biblical Principles on Lying / Withholding the Truth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are principles in Scripture where lying or withholding the truth seems justified to preserve innocent lives or when confronted with casting pearls (i.e., truth) before swine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abraham & Isaac lied about their wives being their sisters, and they both walked away blessed Gen 19, 20, 26 Hebrew midwives lied to Pharaoh and reaped blessings from God Exodus 1:15-21 Rahab lied about the 2 spies, and she saved her family and became an ancestor of Jesus Joshua 2 King David feigned insanity to protect his life... 1Sam 21:13 Jesus withheld the truth (did not cast pearls before swine) when questioned before His death..... John 19:9 Did Jesus lie when He said He had no intentions of going up to the Feast, but He went up anyway? Jesus had no intentions of going up to Jerusalem to make a spectacle of Himself as His brothers alluded to John 7:4-14 More Thots. We are not to give pearls of truth to swine & we need to be wise as serpents, gentle as doves... Mat 7:6; 10:16 Therefore, it seems OK to conceal the truth for a higher purpose – not to harm, not for convenience sake, not to achieve gain – but to protect innocent lives from evil intent On the Flipside. If we want to live long, don't lie Ps 34:12-13 A lying tongue is an abomination to God..... Prov 6:16-17 Israel became a nation of liars Mic 6:12 Ananias & Sapphira lied and died Acts 5:1-11
26:18-25	<p>Fight Over Water Rights & God's Promise to Bless</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv18-22. Quarrels are inevitable at home, work, & church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sometimes, the godly must yield for sake of peace Other times we can stand our ground as Paul did and take matters to court Acts 25:11 Godly wisdom discerns the difference Jms 1:5; 4:1 vv23-25. God shows up and promises to bless, not for Isaac's sake, BUT for his dad's sake (Abraham) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does God show up for us today? Heb 1:1-2
26:26-33	<p>Covenant with Abimelech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v28. Abimelech realized God was with Isaac, and Isaac was not known as a man of integrity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What would it take for our friends, family, and co-workers to realize God is with us even with our own faults and warts? Does it take prosperity (vv12-14)? What kind of blessings do people need to see in our lives to convince them God is with us? Would or should the Fruit of the Spirit suffice? Gal 5:22-23
26:34-35	<p>Caution on Who You Choose to Marry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If Esau's wives were believers in God, there probably would not have been any problem from Mom & Dad God still honors mixed marriages today by "binding together" spouses w/ rare exceptions .. 1Cor 7:10-15;39-40 Exceptions being when the Law forbid such marriages for Jews since it polluted the Land Ezra 10; Eze 36:18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ...and same-sex unions are not bound by God... Mt 19:9 - Immoral/Porneia relationships are not honored by God - John the Baptist lost his head because he challenged 2 unbelievers for their unlawful marriage Mk 6:16-18
27:1-29	<p>Jacob's Deception</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isaac questioned Jacob 3x. The 1st two questions were for information. The 3rd for validation How was Isaac so easily deceived? Since he had a favorite son, did he believe what he wanted to believe? Does favoritism cause problems today in the home? At work? In church? How so in church? How do we prevent the wrong type of favoritism? Is there an appropriate favoritism to show to certain people? To the young? To the handicapped? To the aged? To women? To minorities? To the rich or poor? Isaac blessed Jacob with the following: Power, Prosperity, Prominence, and Protection

Passage	Comments
27:30-46	<p>The Stolen Blessing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv33-35. The truth is out. Jacob deceived his dad and his brother to abscond with the blessing of the first born <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "...Yes, and he shall be blessed." Why was this covenantal blessing so binding even with deceit? Consider This. The blessing Isaac gave was not based on a position of the 1st born, but on the person before him, whom he assumed to be the 1st born v37. Isaac told Esau, "Behold I-me-Isaac have made Jacob your master..." How did Isaac do this with his words? Why are words so important? Can we bestow such blessings on our children or on others TODAY? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know <input type="checkbox"/> Depends vv38-40. Isaac's blessing to Esau was more of a curse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making a living will not come easy – No Prosperity Violence will be the norm – No Peace A slave you shall be – No Freedom vv41-46. Esau vows to kill his twin brother. A lot of love going on here. Family reunions will never be the same. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Momma rescues her favorite boy by sending him away, & the outcome is she will never see him again

The Right of First Born Sometimes Went to Others
 The right of the first born was more of a cultural norm than a biblical mandate. The firstborn son typically received a double inheritance, and who would inherit his father's role as head of the family. There are several exceptions where the 1st born was usurped by another:

- Isaac** received the right of the 1st born instead of **Ishmael** because he was the son of promise from God [Gen 17:19](#)
- Esau** traded his right of 1st born to **Jacob** [Gen 25:29-34](#)
- Ephraim** received the right of the 1st born from his grandfather, Jacob, and at the angst of his father, Joseph..... [Gen 48:17](#)
- Rueben** lost his right of 1st born to **Joseph** because of immorality – he went to bed with his Dad's other wife (Bilhah) [1Chron 5:1-2](#)
- David**, the youngest, received the right of the 1st born..... [1Sam 16:30](#)
- Solomon** received the right of the 1st born from his father, King David, who received a prophecy from God..... [1Chron 22:9](#)

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- To avoid causing problems for generations live a life of integrity
- If you find yourself needing to either lie or withhold the truth to save a life from destruction (as those who hid Jews during the Holocaust) be willing and prepared to pay the ultimate price

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 28-30. Jacob meets God for the first time and commits to be faithful if God is faithful.



Isaac, like his dad, Abraham, lied about his wife being his sister to save his neck, and yet, he was blessed for it.