

Genesis 21-23 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. From Gen 21:22-34 what deal did Abimelech and Abraham make (v23, 24) and why (v22)? What conflict arose (v25-26) and what were the results (v27-32, 33-34)?

5. In 22:1-3 what “test” did God give Abraham (v1-2)? How did Abraham respond (v3)? What does this tell us?

6. Looking at 22:4-8 how did Abraham express his faith in God (v4-5, 6, 8)? How do you think Isaac’s question made Abraham feel?

7. Read 22:9-14. What, in detail, did Abraham do (v9, 10)? How did God respond (v11-12, 13) and why (v12)? What does this parallel? What did Abraham name the place (v14)?

8. Using 22:15-19 what did God reconfirm to Abraham (v17, 18) and why (v15-16)? What did Abraham do next (v19) and what does this teach?

9. From 22:20-23:2 what good news (v20-24, 23:1) and what bad news (23:2) did Abraham receive? What does this show about life, even for believers?

10. According to 23:3-20 what did Abraham ask (v3-4), what was the response (v5-6), and how did the story unfold (v7-20)? How did Abraham “stake his claim” in God’s promises by this action?

11. Summarize from Gen 21-23 the various ways Abraham expressed his faith, and the ways that God supported him. How should we apply the story of God’s test of Abraham?

Scripture to Remember

“And in your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

Genesis 22:18 (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

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One Month to Live Group Questions—Live Passionately

(Using questions based on today’s message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Tell about the best roller coaster you have ever been on and why. On a more serious note, share about one goal you hope to fulfill before you die. Then, watch the DVD.
2. Read Eph 5:15-16. What do you think it means to “redeem the time”? Share about some area where you are experiencing “someday syndrome”. How can that change?
3. Why is our “spiritual energy” more important than any other? Where have you seen God pruning you to get a better connection to Him? Is it working?
4. How well are you connecting to God by constant communication and confession? Why or why not?
5. Share with the group where you would rate your physical, emotional, and relational health. If you have set some goals in these areas tell the group about them.
6. Talk about some fears or control issues that you need to let go of to live “all out” for Jesus. What will it take for you to let go?
7. What dream does God have for you to “latch on to” and what is getting in the way of that? What are some practical steps you can take to begin to fulfill that dream?



THE BIG THREE

Studies in the Genesis 12-36

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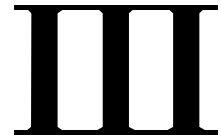
Staking Our Claim Introduction to Genesis 21-23

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

When a miner stakes a claim to a piece of land he is linking his life to it, making it his source of livelihood as long as he works it. In the same way Abraham staked his claim to God’s promises as his source of blessing throughout his life. In this week’s study he does this several ways. First, he makes a challenging transition which moves him from focusing on Ishmael, his first-born, to Isaac, the son of promise. As had long been foretold, Isaac was finally born, and then after a while he was weaned. However, one day Sarah saw Ishmael, who was probably fourteen or fifteen, mocking him, so she told Abraham to drive Ishmael from his house to disinherit him. He was distressed about this, but God promised that He would preserve Ishmael, which He did. He found him

and his mother in the wilderness and swore to make of him a great nation. Thus, God blessed Abraham because he had “claimed” God’s promise. Abraham then made a covenant with the Philistine king, Abimelech, that resolved a dispute over wells. By doing this it allowed him to stay in the land God had promised, another stake in his claim. Some time later God gave Abraham a critical test, telling him to take his only beloved son, Isaac, to the mountain and to sacrifice him there. God knew He would provide a substitute (an early picture of Jesus, our substitute), but He wanted Abraham’s faith to be completed. When Abraham offered Isaac, God provided a substitute, and then reiterated His promise of great blessing on Abraham



God provided a foundation of faith for Israel through their first three leaders.

because he had staked his claim on God. Finally, Abraham made a confident transaction. Since he believed God’s promise that his descendants would possess the land of Canaan, he staked his claim again by purchasing land in which to bury Sarah. He could see God’s blessings being realized all around him, and he knew that his investment in this land would not be wasted. He refused to receive it for free, but purchased it with four hundred shekels of silver. So, in many ways, he was clearly staking his claim in the promises of God.

Daily Study Questions for Genesis 21-23

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com, small groups, abf)

<p>1. Read Genesis 21:1-8. What did God do for Sarah (v1-2) and when (v2, 5)? How did Abraham obey (v3, 4) and what was the overall reaction (v6-8)?</p>	
<p>2. Looking at 21:9-14 what did Sarah do (v10) and why (v9-10)? How did this affect Abraham (v11) and how did God comfort him (v12, 13)?</p>	
<p>3. Using 21:14-21 what happened to Hagar and Ishmael (v14-15) and how did she react (v16)? How did God encourage her (v17, 18, 19) and Ishmael (v20-21)? Apply.</p>	

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