

Genesis

Embarrassing Ancestors and Our Glorious Hope

Genesis is all about God making an extravagantly gorgeous Creation to declare His glory and the horrifying result of our ancestors' rebellion against His kingly rule. It was written to remind us of our good God's promise to undo all the terror that our treason has wrought. It shows us our ancestors' faltering walk of faith and His faithful care for them, all the while paving the way for the coming King who would deliver us from ourselves and all who oppose our good God. The New Heavens and Earth will perfectly declare His praise.

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Remember! God has shown Himself to be faithful, but we forget. Review these ways that God was faithful to Abraham and Isaac. Review also ways that you have seen God meet your needs in Christ.

Repent of Generational Sin! Identify ways that your family has continued to display disbelief in God. Confess it and turn from it. Seek help in putting those ways to death.

Pray! Ask the Lord to continue to expand our sense of wonder and praise for all His faithfulness.

The Life of Faith—Hebrews

Rooted in God's Promises & Running to New Jerusalem

The book of *Hebrews* was written to encourage and exhort God's people who were tempted to turn back from the gospel. They were reminded that the promise of salvation comes through the Son who reveals His Father's glory and provides Sabbath rest. This is the basis for the Christian hope as we await the New Jerusalem whose architect has secured our resurrection life in the eternal city of peace.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
June 2nd, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 26: 1 – 35

Isaac Settles in the Land

1. God's Promise Was Connected to the Land of Promise (1-6).
2. Promised Blessing Was in Spite of Generational Stupidity (7-11).
3. Isaac Knew That This Brought Him into Conflict (12-35).

This chapter is the most we get on the patriarch, Isaac. In it we see an agonizing continuation of the sins of his fathers, yet we also see God's mercy. As Isaac takes up the mantle of waiting on the Lord, we see major Old Testament themes at work in his conflict with the inhabitants of the land and his experience of God's peace and favor in the midst of his enemies. This pilgrimage continues for all who follow Christ as we long for His return.

Evening Service:

Hebrews 4: 11 – 17

Redemptive Rest

1. Let Us Press On to That Rest (11).
2. Let Us Hold Firmly to the Faith (14).
3. Let Us Come to God Boldly (16).

Christ secured our rest by His ascension to the throne of grace. His work is finished so we can rest from trying to win His favor. In this rest we have His favor and we must continue looking to Him in our fear, weakness, and neediness. He is faithful and worthy of our trust for rest.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

God identifies Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Here we learn about Isaac and how God blesses him in grace despite on-going generational sin. Let's read through this chapter together this week and learn more about the promises God has given His people.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ **Genesis 26:1-33; Psalm 23:1-6**. DISCUSS, What is the nature of God's promise to His people? How do you handle conflict in your daily life? How are you trusting Christ in it? PRAY and thank God for setting a table for us in the presence of our enemies.

Sunday PM

READ today's passage: **Hebrews 4:11-17**. DISCUSS, What about Sabbath rest should build our confidence? What leads to fear? PRAISE Christ for being the Lord of our Sabbath.

Monday

READ **Genesis 26:1-6**. DISCUSS, How does God continue His promise to Abraham in Isaac? How does Rebekah respond to the hardship of a difficult pregnancy? PRAY for God to help us turn to Him in our need. EXTEND His grace to someone today. Show them the grace Christ has lavished upon you. PRAY for Christ's comfort for our neighbors.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 26:7-14; 12:10-20; 20:1-18** DISCUSS, Why do we continue to do stupid things? How can we trust God instead? PRAY, "Lord, teach us to trust You while we wait. Show us how Your faithfulness to our fathers and mothers can help us to trust You now. Enable us to delight in You when the things we most want are kept from us. Enliven us to walk by faith in Christ!"

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 26:14-22**. DISCUSS, Why does Isaac encounter conflict with the Philistines (v. 14)? Why would people envy us? How does grace enable us to respond to hostility and conflict in a Christ-like manner? PRAY, Ask God to radically transform your understanding of His promises so that no one could mistake the fact that you are trusting in Christ to raise you from the dead.

Thursday

READ **Genesis 26:23-25**. DISCUSS, What does it mean to call upon the name of the Lord? How do God's promises (Bible) and our prayers work together? PRAY, "Jesus, help us to trust in You and Your faithfulness in fulfilling all Your promises. Teach us to believe what You tell us more than our own eyes."

Friday

READ **Genesis 26:26-35; Psalm 23:1-6**. PRAY, "Lord, God of the Covenant, You have shown Yourself to be faithful. Again and again You heard the prayers of our mothers and fathers in the faith and lovingly cared for them, just as You promised. Yet we, like they, often despair and distrust You. Teach us to trust You. Enable us to demonstrate that faith in how we live together as a community at FCCW. Grant grace to our neighbors that they too might see You in all Your glory and rejoice in Christ.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow. Do what you can today so that you will be less hurried tomorrow. Please pray specifically for our worship service and for the Holy Spirit to guide us together.

READ **Genesis 27:1-46**. Come to worship tomorrow expecting to hear from God through His Word and to learn more about our God together. Pray for God's glory to be more and more manifested in the Woodstock area. Pray that He will use us to extend His grace as we celebrate it together.