

Genesis 26

Community Group Questions

1. Read Genesis 26 (maybe have people take turns :)). Was there anything that stood out from the passage or sermon? Maybe something from your past study of this familiar story? Anything strike you in a new way?
2. Why do you think it is that we tend to see God's promises as mostly about us? What does this say about how we think about ourselves and the reasons God loves us?
3. How does the fact that the ultimate responsibility for the fulfillment of God's promises falls to God himself help you along in your journey as a follower of Jesus?
4. When faced with trials and opposition, to where do you turn? How can the promises of God bring comfort, peace, and hope in those situations?
5. What are some of the dangers in claiming/clinging to promises we find in scripture without understanding them in the proper context? (Think about how often we quote passages like Jeremiah 29:11, Romans 8:28, Philippians 4:13, Matthew 7:7, Mark 10:27)
6. In addition to gathering with other believers regularly for worship, teaching, and communion, what are some ways we can develop a regular practice of repeating and rehearsing God's promises?
7. Share some stories about how you have seen God work in staying true to his promises in your life. What about the lives of others? Our (or other) church(es)?
8. Abimelech tells Isaac, "We see plainly that the Lord has been with you." Iain M. Duguid asks a great series of questions in his commentary on this portion of Genesis: "Could it be said of your lifestyle that 'we see clearly that God is with you'? Does your daily walk point people unmistakably to the God whom you serve and whose presence in your life you claim? Is there a blessing that flows out from you to those who surround you?" (Iain M. Duguid - "Living in the Grip of Relentless Grace: The Gospel in the Lives of Isaac & Jacob")
9. What are we to do when people we know, especially those who seem to be or at one time were people of faith (or grew up in a Christian home), reject or ignore God's promises to them?