

The First Family

Date: 4.26.2026 | God's Promise to Isaac
Scripture: Genesis 26:1-5, 24

CENTRAL TRUTHS



PRESCHOOL:

God keeps His promises and takes care of His people.

YOUNGER KIDS (K5-2ND GRADE):

God told Isaac to trust Him and stay in the land, and God promised to bless him.

OLDER KIDS (3RD-5TH GRADE):

God repeated His promise to Isaac and told him not to be afraid because He was with him.

STUDENTS:

God reaffirmed His covenant promises to Isaac, reminding him that He would bless him, multiply his descendants, and bless the nations through his family.

ADULTS:

God reaffirmed the covenant He made with Abraham by promising His presence and blessing to Isaac, demonstrating His enduring faithfulness to His redemptive promises and calling His people to trust and obey Him without fear.

MEMORY VERSE

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you, I will curse and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
Genesis 12:2-3



DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

Will God allow our disobedience and idolatry to go unpunished? No, every sin is against the sovereignty, holiness, and goodness of God, and against his righteous law, and God is righteously angry with our sins and will punish them in his just judgment both in this life and in the life to come. - New City Catechism q.18

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS



Over the past several weeks, we have been learning about God's covenant with Abraham. In the ancient world, a covenant was a legal, binding agreement between two parties that created a special relationship, similar to a marriage covenant today. Biblical covenants included promises, and God's covenant with Abraham is one of the most important in all of Scripture because it is unconditional—it depends on God's faithfulness, not human effort.

In **Genesis 12–17**, God promised Abraham three key things: land, numerous descendants, and blessing to all nations. These promises drive the story throughout the rest of the Old Testament and into the New Testament, ultimately pointing to Jesus and God's plan of redemption.

In **Genesis 26:1–5 and 24**, we see that God's covenant with Abraham is reaffirmed with Isaac, and later it continues through Jacob. During this time, there is a famine in the land. In the middle of uncertainty and need, the Lord appears to Isaac as part of the fulfillment of His promise to Abraham. God gives Isaac specific instructions about how to respond to the famine, calling him to stay in the land and trust Him.

This account also shows several striking parallels to an earlier episode in Abraham's life (**Genesis 12**). Both Abraham and Isaac were confronted with a famine in the land (**Genesis 26:1; 12:10**), which, when it occurred in the promised land, functioned as a test of faith. Both responded by moving south with the intention of going down to Egypt (**Genesis 26:2; 12:10**). In both situations, God sovereignly affirmed His covenant, clearly restating the three central promises—land, descendants, and blessing—not only for the patriarch himself but ultimately for all the nations of the earth (**Genesis 26:3–4; 12:1–3**). These parallels highlight that God's plan and His promises remain consistent from one generation to the next.

As God speaks to Isaac, He clearly restates and reaffirms the core elements of the covenant—land, descendants, and blessing (*Genesis 26:3–5, 24*). This shows that God’s promises are not temporary or limited to one generation. What God began with Abraham, He is continuing through Isaac.

Throughout Genesis, we see that the Lord personally appeared to Abraham (*Genesis 12:7; 17:1; 18:1*), Isaac (*Genesis 26:2–5, 24*), and later Jacob (*Genesis 35:1, 7, 9*). Each of the patriarchs experienced the reality and impact of God’s presence in their lives. This reminds us that God is not distant—He is personal, present, and actively involved in carrying out His promises.

As part of the covenant reaffirmation with Isaac, God reveals a few important nuances of the relationship that will echo throughout the rest of the Bible. First, God chooses to identify Himself within the covenant context, declaring, “I am the God of your father Abraham” (*Genesis 26:24*). This identifying characteristic of God is repeated throughout the Old Testament, reminding His people that He is the same faithful God across generations.

Second, God proclaims to Isaac, “I will be with you” (*Genesis 26:3*), and again, “Do not be afraid, for I am with you” (*Genesis 26:24*). This is a promise of God’s powerful presence. Adam and Eve once enjoyed God’s presence in the garden, but they lost that privilege when they disobeyed God and were expelled (*Genesis 3*). Now, as part of God’s great restorative covenant with Abraham and his descendants, His powerful presence appears again in the story. This is one of the greatest blessings of being in a relationship with God. His presence, as a sign of His holiness and His power at work in His people, will continue as a theme throughout the Old Testament and into the New.

This promise connects to the larger story of Scripture. What was lost in the garden is being restored through God’s covenant, and that restoration is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the true offspring through whom the blessing promised to Abraham reaches all nations. Through His death and resurrection, He makes a way for sinners to be forgiven and brought back into a relationship with God.

Because of Jesus, we are no longer separated—we can live in God’s presence forever. Just as Isaac was called to trust God’s promises and obey without fear during a time of famine and uncertainty, we are called to trust and obey God today. We can do this with

confidence because God is faithful. He keeps every promise He makes, and through Jesus, He has given us the greatest promise of all—His presence with us forever.

TELL THE STORY

Genesis 26:1-5, 24

In the book of Genesis, God made a very special promise, called a covenant, with a man named Abraham. God promised Abraham that he would have a big family, that they would live in a special land, and that one day all the nations of the world would be blessed through his family. This was a huge promise, and it was based on God's faithfulness, not on Abraham's perfection.

Later, Abraham's son Isaac faced a difficult situation. There was a famine in the land, which meant there wasn't enough food. Long ago, Abraham had faced a famine too, and now Isaac was going through something very similar. This was a test of faith. Would Isaac trust God, or would he try to solve the problem on his own?

Isaac started to go toward Egypt, where there would be more food, just like his father had done. But before he got there, God appeared to him. God told Isaac not to go to Egypt, but to stay in the land He had promised. God wanted Isaac to trust Him, even when things felt uncertain and scary.

Then God reminded Isaac of the same promises He had made to Abraham. God said He would give Isaac and his family the land, that his family would grow into many people, and that through his family all the nations of the earth would be blessed (*Genesis 26:3-4*). This showed that God's promises were not just for Abraham—they were continuing through Isaac and would keep going.

God also shared something very important with Isaac. He said, "I am the God of your father Abraham" (*Genesis 26:24*). This reminded Isaac that the same God who had been faithful to his father would be faithful to him too. God does not change, and He always keeps His promises.

God also gave Isaac a very special promise: "I will be with you... Do not be afraid" (*Genesis 26:3, 24*). This meant that Isaac would not face the famine alone—God Himself would be with him to help,



guide, and protect him. God's presence was the greatest blessing Isaac could have.

This is really important because, at the very beginning of the Bible, Adam and Eve lived with God in the garden. But when they sinned, they were separated from God (*Genesis 3*). Ever since then, people have been separated from God because of sin. But here in Isaac's story, we see that God is beginning to bring His presence back to His people. He is working out a plan to fix what was broken.

That plan is all about Jesus. God kept His promise to bless the whole world by sending Jesus through Abraham's family. Jesus never sinned, but He died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. Then He came back to life so that we could be forgiven and restored to a relationship with God.

Because of Jesus, we don't have to be separated from God anymore. When we trust in Him, we are forgiven, and God is with us forever. Just like Isaac was called to trust God and obey Him without fear, we can trust God, too. Even when life feels hard or uncertain, we can remember that God keeps His promises and is always with His people.

REBUILD THE STORY



1. What problem was happening in the land when Isaac's story begins? (*Genesis 26:1*)

2. What direction was Isaac planning to go because of the famine? (*Genesis 26:2*)

3. What command did God give Isaac instead of going to Egypt? (*Genesis 26:2-3*)

4. What three main promises did God repeat to Isaac from His covenant with Abraham? (*Genesis 26:3-4*)

5. Why did God say He would keep these promises to Isaac?
(Genesis 26:5)

6. What did God call Himself when He spoke to Isaac, and why is that important? *(Genesis 26:24)*

7. What specific promise did God give Isaac to help him not be afraid? *(Genesis 26:3, 24)*

8. How does Isaac's situation in Genesis 26 compare to Abraham's earlier experience? *(Genesis 26:1; Genesis 12:10)*

9. What does this story show about how God works through generations? *(Genesis 26:3–5, 24)*

10. How does God's promise to bless all nations through Abraham's family connect to Jesus? *(Genesis 26:4; Galatians 3:9)*

11. Why do you think God told Isaac to stay in the land instead of going somewhere easier, like Egypt? What does this teach us about trusting God?

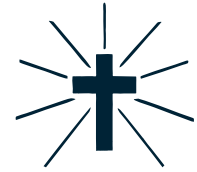
12. How does God's promise "I will be with you" change the way we face hard or scary situations today?

13. In what ways is God's faithfulness to Abraham and Isaac encouraging for your own life and faith?

14. How does this story help you better understand why we need Jesus and what He came to do for us?

GOSPEL EMPHASIS

God made a covenant with Abraham, promising land, a great number of descendants, and blessings for all nations. In *Genesis 26:1–5, 24*, we see that God’s plan did not stop with Abraham—it continued through Isaac and would later continue through Jacob. Even in the middle of a famine, when Isaac was unsure what to do, God appeared to him, told him to stay in the land, and reminded him of these same promises. God said, “I am the God of your father Abraham” and “I will be with you... do not be afraid” (*Genesis 26:3, 24*). This shows us that God is faithful across generations and that His presence is the greatest blessing He gives His people.



As we read the stories of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, we will see that none of them were perfect. They sinned, made wrong choices, and even deceived others at times. Yet nothing they did could stop God’s plan. God had already decided that the blessing promised to Abraham would continue through his family and ultimately lead to Jesus, the Savior of the world. This reminds us that God’s promises do not depend on people being perfect—they depend on God’s faithfulness.

This is good news for us. Just like those men, we are not perfect, and we sin, which separates us from God. But God kept His promise by sending Jesus through Abraham’s family. Jesus lived a perfect life, died for our sins, and rose again so that we could be forgiven and brought back into a relationship with God. Because of Jesus, we can trust God, obey Him without fear, and know that His presence is with us forever.

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

Use your Attributes of God poster as a guide.

PRAYER PROMPTS

God, thank You for always keeping Your promises and being with us, even when life feels hard or uncertain. Help us to trust You and obey You without fear, just like Isaac was called to do. Thank You for sending Jesus to forgive our sin and bring us back into Your presence—help us live each day knowing You are always with us.



THIS WEEK’S BIBLE READING

Genesis 27