



# Living Hope Ministries

## Bible Study

### GENESIS 26

This chapter reminds us that old habits can repeat themselves. We see also Isaac establishing his own relationships and the significance of having wells to support and sustain life. Rivalry can happen if there is no agreement between you and others in the land where you dwell.

#### **Famine in the land v.1-6**

Isaac travels to see Abimelech, King of the Philistines. The Lord tells him not to go to Egypt. The Lord affirms the promises he made to Isaac's father, Abraham. Land will be available to Isaac, and his descendants will be as numerous as the stars in the sky. It is also important to see that generational blessings are passed down. With all these promises and assurances, Isaac stays in Gera and does not go to Egypt. How vital it is to be in the place God tells you to be.

#### **Isaac and Rebekah v.7-11**

Isaac, like his father Abraham, grapples with the fear of his own death, which could lead to the abduction of his wife, Rebekah. So, he tells people that Rebekah is his sister. However, sometime later, Abimelech discovers Isaac and Rebekah in a very affectionate embrace and concludes that she is his wife. Abimelech is angry that one of his men could have slept with Rebekah, and consequently, he offers full protection to both Isaac and Rebekah.

#### **Isaac grows in wealth v.12 - 14**

The extent of Isaac's wealth accumulates greatly. Flocks and servants abound. The Philistines envy his success. Material wealth is second to spiritual wealth, but Isaac is blessed as he walks with God. His reputation grows as a man whom God favours.

#### **Wells v.15-25**

Arguments over wells would have been common, as a well was a source of life for people and the flocks and herds of different kinds.

The Philistines had filled up some of Abraham's wells, causing obvious concern. Abimelech sees Isaac's influence growing and so wants Isaac to move on and separate from him. There is a dispute over wells dug, but eventually a well is dug with no dispute. Isaac rejoices in God's favour and is encouraged to press on in God's purposes. God speaks to Isaac again, reassuring him of the previous promises and that he will flourish in the purposes of God with a vast number of descendants. Isaac builds an altar in this place and digs another well.

### **Isaac has a treaty with Abimelech (v.26-33).**

It becomes clear that Abimelech recognises that the enormous success of Isaac is because of God's favour and because Isaac fears God. He wants a treaty to confirm that Isaac will not threaten or attack him but that they can have peace between them. After a large feast in Abimelech's honour, they part company, believing they can live in safety and without fear.

### **Esau makes marriage choices which cause grief to Isaac and Rebekah v.34-35**

#### **POINTS TO CONSIDER.**

- Is it always good to move in times of crisis?
- God's reassurance is always a blessing, but why do we need it?
- Fear can prompt bad decisions. Why did Isaac not talk to Abimelech about Rebekah?
- Wealth can be a sign of God's blessing. Why does God allow some to be wealthy?
- How can we build spiritual wells to establish us in our faith? Where are we drawing from for our walk with God?
- How do we establish peace with others? Do we need to make covenant agreements today?
- How do we handle bad decisions which our children make? Why do you think Esau's choices grieved Isaac and Rebekah?