

the

GENESIS

EXPERIENCE

Session 8/Genesis 26

Group Ice Breaker: What is it about someone's life that reflects the presence of God?

Read Genesis 26: 1-35

Discussion

1. List some examples of Isaac trusting God and *not* trusting God from this passage.
2. Despite the inconsistency of Isaac's trust in God we do find something that remained consistent (v. 28); how do you think Abimelech, a pagan leader, would recognize God's presence in Isaac's life?
3. Why is God's presence evident in Isaac's life according to vs. 3 and 24?
4. Even though Isaac had the presence of God with him, he still experienced difficulties (i.e. scarcity, injustice, envy, contention, covetousness). In light of your own past or current difficulties, how does this truth shape your hope in God?
5. After God reaffirms His promise and presence in v. 24, how does Isaac respond? What is significant about this action?
6. Building an altar and calling on the name of the Lord represents worship and prayer (read v. 25). What present day equivalent of Isaac's actions can be practiced today? How could we practice these principles today?

Inductive Study Questions

1. Think about Isaac's life in Genesis. What lessons did he learn?
2. How would you describe his relationship with God?
3. What did you learn about yourself through the life of Isaac?

Prayer Exercise

Form groups of 3-4. Consider the rhythms or patterns you have set up in your life to simply be with God. Do you create space to acknowledge His presence and power?

Have one person pray Psalm 63:1 (NIV) aloud:

"You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water"

Pause and ask the Lord, "How can I worship and call upon your name this week?" Have each person share one practical way in which this can be done.

Have a different person than before pray Psalm 23 (NIV) aloud:

"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
³ he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
⁴ Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,^[a]
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

Finally, ask the Lord, "Where do I need to realize this truth the most?"

Spend time praying aloud your answer to this question, acknowledging God's closeness and the benefits of being with Him daily.