

Genesis 26 is an overview of the life of Isaac. The duration of events covers many years, condensed into a rather short chapter of Scripture. Here we see Isaac repeating the sins of his father, receiving similar commands to “go”, and the promise of the covenant, passed from one generation to the next.

## Genesis 26:1-35

# God’s Promise to Isaac

### I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

**MY EXPERIENCE...**

**YOUR EXPERIENCE...**

In many ways we are the product of our environment, and there is no closer developmental environment than the family from which we come. With that principle at play, it makes perfect sense that our parents are the most influential contributors to our character and who we will one day become, for better or worse.

### II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

**WHO** do you think you are more like, your mother or father?

**WHAT** specific traits (positive or negative) do you emulate from your parents?

**HOW** can we use our upbringing and childhood experiences as an excuse for our sin?

**ARE** there ways you have broken free from sinful patterns in your life that may have been practiced regularly in your developmental year? **WHAT** were the processes in overcoming these areas?

# Genesis 26:1-35 Read Genesis 26:1-35

## God's Promise to Isaac

### OBSERVATION

What led Isaac to Gerar in vs. 1?

According to vs. 2, where did God tell Isaac not to go?

What three things does God promise Isaac in vs. 3?

In vs. 6-7, what sin does Isaac commit, and how does Abimelech discover the truth about Rebekah?

According to vs. 12-22, what happens to Isaac and his prosperity?

What does Abimelech do in light of Isaac's prosperity (vs. 26-31)?

How does the chapter end in vs. 34-35?

### INTERPRETATION

What parallels can you gather between this account of Isaac and that of his father Abraham? Consider 12:1-3, 10-14, 20:2-3.

What role does fear play in each of these experiences (20:11, 26:6)?

To what (and whom) does God continually appeal in order to show Isaac that He will be protected no matter what might come his way? See 26:3 and vs. 24.

In vs. 8, what does Abimelech observe, specifically that reveals Isaac's true relationship with Rebekah?

How does Abimelech's response to Isaac's deception cause him to be convicted of his sin?

How does God continue to demonstrate His faithfulness to the promised covenant originally given to Abraham (and now Isaac) in this chapter?

Contrast the marriage depicted in vs. 34-35 to the one illustrated in chapter 24. Keep in mind Genesis 10.

How does God use suffering or difficult circumstances throughout this passage in order to attain His purposes?

### APPLICATION

Where are you experiencing suffering in your life? Do you find yourself looking more for relief, or redemption from those things you're suffering from?