

FAITHFUL ONE

ABRAHAM TO ISAAC

Part 1: *The Blessing of Isaac*

Part 2: *The Binding of Isaac*

Part 3: *The Kindness of Strangers*

APPETIZER: The Year(s) in Review...

- Abraham & Ur
- Urban to wilderness
- Fertility & Blessing
- Hagar & Ishmael
- Sarah & Isaac
- The Binding of Isaac
- The journey continues...

DINE IN: On Death & Dying

Genesis 23:1-20

Abraham returns to Sarah:

The realization of what's been lost

vs. 2: "...and Abraham went to mourn for Sarah and to weep over her."

"Bakah" ('weep): '*lament with great sorrow.*' *

Hebrew Mourning:

- A time period with the body (**vs. 3:** Abraham weeps over her, then "rose from beside his dead wife and spoke to the Hittites.")
- A time period of burial preparation (**vs 4:** "...sell me some property for a burial site here so I can bury my dead.")
- Typically, a body would not be embalmed but covered
- Final rest (cave/tomb), mourned along side family

Confirmation of promise:

- Burial site marks the fulfillment of the land of promise
- Abraham is now a land owner in Canaan (cave + field + trees)
- In death there is now new life
- Sarah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Rebekah, and Leah are all buried at this site

TAKE OUT: The Weeping God with Us

Death & the promise of new life

John 11:32-35

vs. 35: "Jesus wept."

ἐδάκρυσεν: 'burst into tears'

→ God leads us towards community ESPECIALLY in sorrow. We need each other.

2 Corinthians 1:4

Homework:

Is there someone you can/should reach out to this week that is suffering?

Is there someone you can thank this week that has shown God's care and comfort to you?

"Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted."

~ Jesus

NEXT WEEK: Danielle Strickland teaches on how we can be free from oppression!

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. What stood out to you from this Sunday's teaching? Discuss any of your lingering questions and reflections.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

2. a. **Read Genesis 23.** What stands out to you from this passage?
b. What does reading about Abraham's grief for Sarah bring up for you? What do you think Jesus means when he says blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted?
c. What do you think of the age of Sarah? What explanations have you heard about the extraordinary long length of life recorded in Scripture? (e.g. Genesis 5)
c. It would have been impactful and hopeful for the Israelites to read that their patriarch had once been a foreigner and an immigrant. How does understanding our own histories of immigration help us show empathy and compassion to the newcomers around us? What does Jesus teach us about this? (**Matthew 25:35**)
d. Burial and rituals around the death of a loved one were seen as very important in Abraham's culture. What are some ways that you have marked and mourned the passing of your loved ones?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

3. Reflect with your huddle on this week's homework:
 - Is there someone you can/should reach out to this week that is suffering?
 - Is there someone you can thank this week that has shown God's care and comfort to you?