

# GENESIS II

## THE NEXT CHAPTERS OF GOD'S RELENTLESS PLAN

### Part 6: Family Patterns

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#### **An Opening Question**

What is something your family system values?

#### **Genesis 26:1-6**

Now there was a famine in the land—besides the previous famine in Abraham's time—and Isaac went to Abimelek king of the Philistines in Gerar. <sup>2</sup>The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. <sup>3</sup>Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. <sup>4</sup>I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, <sup>5</sup>because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions." <sup>6</sup>So Isaac stayed in Gerar.

**When God promises to do something, he keeps his promises**

**Abraham was a friend of God.**

**What is your reputation with God?**

#### **Family Patterns: Genesis 26:7**

When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he said, "She is my sister," because he was afraid to say, "She is my wife." He thought, "The men of this place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful."

**Isaac struggled with being deceptive**

**What blessings or curses are you giving your kids?**

#### **Genesis 26:8-14**

When Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelek king of the Philistines looked down from a window and saw Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah. <sup>9</sup>So Abimelek summoned Isaac and said, "She is really your wife! Why did you say, 'She is my sister'?"

Isaac answered him, "Because I thought I might lose my life on account of her."

<sup>10</sup>Then Abimelek said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the men might well have slept with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us."

<sup>11</sup>So Abimelek gave orders to all the people: "Anyone who harms this man or his wife shall surely be put to death."

<sup>12</sup> Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundred-fold, because the Lord blessed him. <sup>13</sup> The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy. <sup>14</sup> He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him.

### **Do you see what seems odd about this? King Abimelek...**

1. Understood God's hand was on this family
2. Extended grace rather than condemnation

### **Biblical Pattern for Changing Broken Family Systems**

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” – Matthew 4:17

- Repent means to turn around
- Ask for the Holy Spirit's help

### **How Can We Help Others with their Broken Patterns?**

- Love one another (Romans 13:8)
- Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
- Carry each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- Be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- Be at peace with one another (Mark 9:50)
- Stop passing judgment on one another (Romans 14:13)

### **Reflection**

1. What are my healthy family patterns?
2. What are my unhealthy family patterns?
3. Is there anyone you want me to encourage?

**Next Step:** Check out the upcoming class “Why Christians Stay Stuck” on page 7 of the brand new CTK Life, available today in the Commons. Starts Tuesday, July 10 at 6:30 PM.

### **Small Group Questions**

1. This weekend we talked about how we carry the good and bad of our families forward. What are some examples of both that you have observed in others?
2. Reread Genesis 26:1-13. What are the blessings and curses Abraham gives Isaac that you can observe from this passage?
3. Take 5 minutes to reflect: what is the one best and one worst family pattern you received from your family of origin?
4. Shared these strengths and weaknesses with the group. Did a pattern come up that you'd like prayer for?
5. How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?