

Week 2 – God Builds A Nation



What a week – To see how God works and interacts intimately with one man who believes and responds to His commands over a lifetime. The implications of God wanting to be involved in peoples lives and this is the story of how He began building a nation. He started with a man and built a family. They were dysfunctional (*to say the least!*), yet they were loved. It was this man & his family that God entered into a covenant with, A covenant that He promised to keep (*and DID!*). This week's chapter is the explanation of just how God keeps those promises to Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob & his children too!

When we consider all that God has promised and all that He has kept we are confronted with a God who is as good as His word and as a result is trustworthy with all we experience and encounter in our daily walk. The lives of the patriarchs are filled with family, work, spiritual and physical issues that taxed their faith and they found (*just as I believe you will*) that God lives up to being worthy of trust!

Discussion Questions

1. What kind of life was Abraham living when God called him? What do you think would be the response of most people who get a call to leave without a destination in mind?
2. Abraham left his homeland and family to follow God. What did God say Abraham's reward would be?

3. Does God still ask people to sacrifice and follow Him? What are possible examples of that kind of sacrifice? What might God be asking you to give up to follow Him?
4. What made Abraham righteous in God's sight? How is this relevant to someone (you) living in 2018?
5. What is the importance of having an heir? Especially for Abraham? What was God's promise & reassurance to Abraham?
6. Why was Isaac given his name?
7. What kind of homelife do you think Isaac experienced in his early years? How was he treated? How do you think Abraham & Sarah shared their family's story?
8. Why did God ask Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac? What did Abraham – and Isaac – learn from the experience?
9. What kind of sibling rivalry do you believe Jacob & Esau had? What ways did dad & mom make it worse?
10. Because Jacob had shrewdly acquired Esau's birthright & outright stole their father's blessing, Jacob feared his brother's wrath. What was the way he avoided that?
11. What did God provide for Jacob even though he was such a jerk? Do you believe that God can work in people who aren't completely convinced?
12. How did Jacob prepare for his reunion with Esau? What way could Esau have taken their reunion?
13. What attitude did Jacob have when he wrestled with the "man" who Jacob eventually realized was actually God?
14. What was the result of that 'wrestling match'?
15. What does Jacob's name change to Israel mean? What way(s) do you struggle with God? How do you resolve it usually? Does that bring honor and glory to God or is it just a struggle?
16. God's obvious blessing on Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & all their children is seen displayed in this week's chapter. What are ways you have seen God's blessing on you and your family? What are the ways you respond to that blessing? Taking for granted? Humble acceptance? Or Complete surprise? (or a combination of all three?)

As you work through the Story may the character of God fill your days and weeks and may the realization that God's promises still have an effect today which He is faithfully working out in the lives of His people!