

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAY TOGETHER

Holy Spirit, we invite You to search our hearts as we gather and to help us see where we've been hesitating in fear or rushing ahead in our own strength. Just as You guided Abraham's servant, Rebekah, and Isaac. Guide us now to hear Your voice clearly through Your Word and through one another. Give us the humility to be corrected, the courage to obey even when it costs us comfort, and the faith to trust that You truly see us in every season. Let this time not just inform our minds, but move our hearts and shape our actions this week.

ICE BREAKER

When you're going through the process of assembling something complicated (furniture, a grill, a Lego set), are you an "instruction manual" person or a "figure it out as I go" person?

SERMON OVERVIEW

This week's sermon followed Isaac and Rebekah and the tension between hesitation and acceleration in our walk with God. Sometimes God moves quickly - like when Rebekah appears mid-prayer. Other times, He works slowly, inviting years of waiting. Their story holds both: fast answers and long delays, clear promises and complicated processes.

We were reminded how easy it is to either drag our feet in fear or rush ahead in impatience. What feels like caution can become hesitation, and what feels like initiative can become control. In either case, we risk complicating what God has already promised to accomplish.

The invitation is steady faithfulness. The God who guided Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob still sees us. His plan is secure, His presence is near, and our calling is to stay in step - neither shrinking back nor sprinting ahead.

READ SCRIPTURE

GENESIS 24; 25:21-26; 26:1-6

CONNECT RELATIONALLY

- 1) The servant's prayer in Genesis 24:12-15 is answered while he is still praying, but Isaac and Rebekah wait about 20 years for children (Genesis 25:20-26). How do you feel when God answers some prayers quickly but seems slow or silent on others? Do you feel more encouraged, confused, or disappointed by that contrast?
- 2) The sermon described Isaac as prone to hesitation and Rebekah as marked by acceleration (quick, decisive action). Which one do you emotionally identify with more right now, and how does that self-awareness make you feel about your walk with God: ashamed, affirmed, defensive, grateful?
- 3) Pastor CJ said, "Where there is no faith in the future, there is no power in the present," drawing from Isaac's temptation to go to Egypt in Genesis 26:1-3. When you think about your future, what dominates your heart more: fear or faith? How does that emotional stance impact your sense of God's goodness?

4) In Genesis 26, Isaac re-digs the wells that had been stopped up after Abraham's death. Instead of fighting over every disputed well, he keeps moving until there is room to flourish. What might "re-digging old wells" look like in your spiritual life right now: returning to practices, truths, or rhythms that once nourished you? Where might God be inviting you to deepen rather than expand?

5) Both Isaac and Rebekah were part of a generational promise they did not fully see fulfilled. Spiritual growth often happens in the tension between promise and patience. How is God shaping your maturity in a season where faithfulness feels ordinary or unseen? What might it look like to measure growth not by visible results, but by deeper trust, steadier obedience, or quieter confidence in God?

6) Pastor CJ gave several diagnostic questions for both hesitation and acceleration (e.g., safety as a prerequisite for obedience; activity increasing while time with God decreases). Identify one area of your life (work, family, finances, ministry) where you're either clearly hesitating or clearly accelerating. What single action step can you take this week to move closer to obedient balance in that area?

7) God told Isaac, "Do not go down to Egypt... stay in this land" during famine (Genesis 26:2-3). Rebekah said, "I will go" when asked to leave her home (Genesis 24:58). Both obeyed without ideal conditions. What is one act of obedience God may be prompting you toward right now that you've been delaying until things feel "safer" or "more ready"? What will you do about it in the next seven days?

Based on our conversation today, how is the Holy Spirit inviting me to take a next step in practical application?

I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

Please ask each member to share their step if they have one. It is ok if you are still discerning and need time to process, pray and ponder.

Please take a few moments to ask each member to share a joy or praise and an area of concern. Ask someone to pray over these requests, and please distribute them to all group members so you may continue to intercede for one another between your meetings.

BetterTogether - Big Date Night featuring comedian Jeff Allen - Across all of our Northview Campuses, join us on Friday, February 20th for a great evening of fun, fellowship, lots of laughter and great inspiration. This event is for everyone! So whether you are married, single, or dating, invite some friends, and grab your tickets for a wonderful night of high-quality entertainment.
