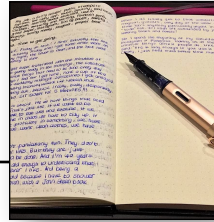


Genesis & The Story of Your Life (Part 2)

Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah



*"This is the **account** [story] of Terah's family. Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran was the father of Lot." Genesis 11:27 NLT*

Genesis tells us the stories of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Lot, Rebekah, Jacob, Esau, and Joseph. Each had a "life message." Their stories teach us important lessons. Our lives are also a story and have a message. What message do you want to come from your life?

The Central Lesson:

Our lives have a "life message." What do you want your message to be?

1. Sarah - **IMPATIENCE** causes problems (Genesis 6).

"Then Sarai said to Abram, 'This is all your fault! I put my servant into your arms, but now that she's pregnant she treats me with contempt....'" Genesis 16:5 NLT *"God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."* James 1:12 NLT

Waiting can be very difficult. We live in a culture of instant gratification. We want everything fast. We want it ASAP. However, rash decisions often result in unnecessary pain and problems. Impatience is universal.

Sarah, the wife of Abraham and the mother of Isaac, is a picture of **impatience**. She was 90 years old and had never had a baby. God promised Abraham and Sarah they would have a son (Genesis 12:7; 13:14-17; 15:2-6). However, Sarah took matters into her own hands. Instead of waiting on God's time, she gave her Egyptian maidservant, Hagar, to her husband, Abraham. She demanded a son through Hagar.

What Sarah suggested to Abraham was a common ancient practice for women unable to conceive. According to this custom, the son of the slave became the son of the barren woman. Hagar became pregnant and gave birth to a son, Ishmael. However, instead of a happy ending, the plan resulted in **conflict, jealousy, and pain** (Genesis 16). Not only did Sarah's impatience cause trouble for her family, but turmoil for the world through the ages. Ishmael became the father of the Arabs who embraced Islam and is today hostile towards the Jews and the whole world.

2. Isaac - be a **TESTIMONY** to God's grace and power by our lives and lips. (Genesis 21:1-7).

¹ The Lord kept his word and did for Sarah exactly what he had promised. ² She became pregnant, and she gave birth to a son for Abraham in his old age. This happened at just the time God had said it would. ³ And Abraham named their son Isaac... ⁵ Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born... ⁶ ...All who hear about this will laugh with me." Genesis 21:1-6 NLT.

Isaac was a miracle child. He was born to Abraham at the age of 100 and Sarah at the age of 91. Wherever Isaac would go, people would marvel at the miracle. As Sarah said, *"...All who hear about this will laugh with me"* (Gen. 21:6). They would see physical evidence of God's power and faithfulness. Isaac was a testimony and witness to people about God's grace and power.

God has made us a miracle child, too. We have experienced God's grace, mercy, redemption, and transformation. Wherever we go, our lives should be a witness to God's goodness, grace, and redeeming power. We should be evidence of God turning ruined sinners into redeemed saints. Our witness should be from our lives and our lips.

How Your Life Can Be A Testimony

1. **Share Your **STORY****. As God opens the doors of opportunity, share with people how God has saved you and changed your life.
2. **PRAY with People**. People are hurting. Life is filled with problems. Everyone needs the Lord. People are blessed when we pray with them. Our ministry of prayer can encourage people to turn to Christ.
3. **Share a simple **GOSPEL** explanation with people**. In short - ask permission, explain the Gospel, help them respond, and encourage them to grow spiritually. Learn to share—The Three Circles, The Bridge to God, Do Versus Done, The Three Key Words, etc.

3. Rebekah - God loves you and wants to **GUIDE** your life - but we must seek Him (Genesis 24:7; Proverbs 3:5-6).

"...He will send his angel ahead of you, and he will see to it that you find a wife there for my son." Genesis 24:7 NLT. ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT.

In Genesis 24, Abraham sent his servant back to his home country to find a wife for his son Isaac. In the story, God directs the servant to Rebekah (Gen. 24:14, 44, 50-51). The greatest motivation and glue for a life-long marriage is the conviction that your marriage is God's will. **Love is not strong enough to hold a marriage together**. Emotions can change over time, and people can question whether they should stay in their marriage. However, God's will is constant. It enables marriage to be steadfast when emotions fluctuate.

Biblical Principles for Seeking God's Will and Guidance

- (1) God guides us through the **Bible** (Genesis 24:5-7).
- (2) God guides us by the **witness** of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16).
- (3) God guides us through **circumstances** (Genesis 24:14).
- (4) God guides us by influencing our **desires** and hearts (Genesis 24:49-50, 58; Philippians 2:13).
- (5) God guides us through the **counsel** of other Spirit-filled Christians (Genesis 24:59-60).
- (6) God guides us through our sanctified common **sense** (Acts 15:19).

The Central Lesson

Our lives have a "life message." What do you want your message to be?

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ▶ Attend a small group. ▶ Read the Bible this week ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.