



"I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you." -- Genesis 12:3

Date: February 9, 2025
Message: ALL THE PEOPLES
Teacher: Patrick Edwards
Passage: Genesis 21:1-24:67

The Big Idea: The human race is diverse. In appearance, in cuisine, in music, in all sorts of things we are different, not just across the planet but even in our immediate communities. Those differences, unfortunately, have often led to division and hurt, but God's purpose is to bring all people together. The Gospel, we see, isn't detached from questions of ethnicity or gender or culture but encompasses them all.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 12 (Genesis 21:1-7) The Birth of Isaac

1. What does this story reveal about God's faithfulness?
2. How might Hagar and Ishmael be feeling right now?
3. Who gets the last laugh in this story?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 12 (Genesis 21:8-21) Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away

1. From Sarah's perspective, why are Hagar and Ishmael sent away?
2. How is Abraham's distress due to his past mistakes?
3. According to Paul, what truth about God's covenant is illustrated by Sarah and Hagar? By Isaac and Ishmael? (Galatians 4:21-31, Romans 9:6-9)
4. While outside of the covenant, what promise does Hagar receive? (21:13-21)
5. Are there people in your life with whom you don't get along? How do you handle discord?
6. How are you like Hagar, in need of God's comforting?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 12 (Genesis 21:22-34) The Treaty at Beersheba

1. Why would Abimelech ask that Abraham not deal falsely with him? Is he justified in his concern? (Remember Genesis 20)?
2. Why might an alien and sojourner in the land want to establish ownership of this piece of property? How does this real estate relate to God's promise?
3. What is the significance of Abraham planting a tamarisk tree in Beersheba?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 12 (Genesis 22:1-19) Abraham Tested

1. What is God emphasizing as he describes Abraham's relationship with his son? (22:2)
2. Knowing Abraham waited 25 years for this son of promise, how would you expect him to react?
3. Abraham pleaded his case to spare Sodom, why not present his case before God now?
4. Do you think that Abraham would have gone through with the sacrifice if God had not stopped him?
5. Why does God test Abraham, and then turn around and offer the same covenant again? (22:15-18)
6. Before, Abraham believed, and God declared him righteousness. Notice the end of 22:18, "because you have obeyed me." Do you notice perhaps a necessary progression?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 12 (Genesis 23:1-20) Sarah's Death and Burial

1. Why is it important to bury Sarah in a tomb that Abraham owned? (see Genesis 25:7-11)
2. What is the relationship between this purchased land and the promised land?
3. Why would Abraham bury his wife in Canaan but not allow his son to marry a Canaanite? (24:3)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 12 (Genesis 24:1-67) Isaac and Rebekah

1. What problems would be created if Isaac married a Canaanite? How does marrying a relative solve Abraham's problem?
2. When you read about Rebekah, what do you find most attractive? (Her looks? Servant heart? Willing spirit? Veiled modesty?)
3. What is evident in this story that God is still in charge? (Genesis 24:50)
4. Do people today put too much stock in such divine matchmaking?
5. In what situations have you asked God for a sign?
6. Does a sign mean we seek confirmation or is it a symptom of our lack of faith?
7. Who do you know who consistently goes the extra mile and "waters the camels also"?