

# Foundations Devotional

• FOR THE WEEK OF AUG 16 - AUG 22 •

## MONDAY // GENESIS 18-19

In Genesis 18, three visitors appeared to Abraham and reaffirmed God's promise to give Abraham and Sarah a son. Just before the visitors left, Abraham learned that God was about to judge the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah for their sins. Abraham questioned God's mercy and justice, and when God stated that He would spare the city for 10 righteous people, Abraham understood the extent of God's love and mercy (18:22-23). Unfortunately, God already knew that 10 righteous people would not be found in the city, and chapter 19 records the destruction that came to them as a result. Sin is a violation of the very character of God, and because He is just, He must take action against it. Thankfully, the finality of God's action against sin took place at the cross, when Jesus bore God's wrath for our sin once and for all.

## TUESDAY // GENESIS 20-21

Despite God's continued faithfulness, Abraham still had a hard time learning to trust God in all things. Afraid for his life, Abraham lied about Sarah's identity as his wife and put the entire kingdom in jeopardy. Even so, God's faithfulness to His covenant promises shone through as He protected Abraham in spite of his sin. Next, as God had promised, Sarah became pregnant by Abraham and delivered a son at the exact time God had specified. These two chapters speak to God's promise-keeping nature. Thankfully, as Abraham's life demonstrates, God is faithful to His promises no matter how many times His children sin and stumble. God's love outweighs even our biggest weaknesses.

## WEDNESDAY // GENESIS 22

The story of Abraham's testing in Genesis 22 is one of the most famous stories about his life. After waiting years for God to fulfill His promise of a son, imagine Abraham's shock when God asked him to sacrifice his "only son" to Him. Immediately Abraham set off to obey God in faith, but as Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son, God stopped him and provided a sacrificial ram in Isaac's place. Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to God reminds us how God has done the same for us. God gave His "only Son," Jesus, to die for us as a sacrifice for our sins. If God is willing to sacrifice the One He loves most, why would we not offer everything, even our lives, as living sacrifices back to Him (Rom.12:1-2)?

## THURSDAY // GENESIS 24

Time and again throughout Abraham's story, we see God faithfully keep the promises He made to Abraham. One of those promises was that Abraham's offspring would inherit the land of Canaan, which became known as the promised land (Gen. 12:7). Realizing he was getting old, Abraham planned for Isaac's future. He summoned a servant and sent him to find a wife for Isaac. Abraham was confident that God's hand would guide them, so his servant also trusted that it would happen, and it did. Through a series of events, God revealed that Rebekah was to be Isaac's future wife. This part of Abraham's story reminds us that our all-knowing, all-powerful God is continually at work in and through us to accomplish His good purposes.

## FRIDAY // GENESIS 25:19-34; 26

Isaac married Rebekah, and like Sarah, it appeared Rebekah would be childless. But after Isaac prayed to God, she gave birth to twin boys--Esau and Jacob. Early on, animosity ran deep between these two brothers. One day, when Esau came home exhausted from an unsuccessful hunt, Jacob sold him a bowl of soup in exchange for Esau's birthright, the first recorded instance of what would become a life-long sibling rivalry rooted in jealousy and pride. These were Isaac's sons, so they, too, were children of the promise--God's covenant with Abraham. And like the covenant He had with Abraham, God promised to bless Isaac and his offspring. By pointing out many of Isaac's, Jacob's, and Esau's sins, the writer of Genesis (Moses) reminds us again that God's faithfulness to and love of His people has nothing to do with them and has everything to do with Him.

## WEEKEND

Finish up any you haven't done from above!