

# Always There

## Genesis 26:1-33 | July 12, 2020

**Context:** Genesis 25:11 had stated briefly that after Abraham died, God blessed Isaac. Now Genesis 26 elaborates on that blessing and shows how God affirmed his presence with Isaac.

- Promise (1-6): “I will be with you and will bless you.”
  
- Provision and protection (7-25): “Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you.”
  
- Affirmation (26-33): “We saw clearly that the LORD was with you.”

### Implications for believers in Christ today:

1. \_\_\_\_\_, because God is with you (Hebrews 13:5-6).
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_, because He is with you (John 14:16-18).
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_, because He is with you (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 18:9-10).

**God’s presence with us blesses us,**

**Note:** He is WITH US now, but one day, Christ will take us to be WITH HIM! (John 14:1-3)

### Discussion Questions:

1. What are some situations that we face today that might be comparable to what Isaac faced?
2. What else does Scripture say outside of Genesis 26 about God’s presence with his people?
3. How do the principles of God’s Word from Genesis 26 help us in our mission to make disciples who make disciples?



## Questions for Parents to use with their children:

- 1. Verses 2-4 detail God's instructions and promises to prosper Isaac and his descendants (continuing the covenant with Abraham). We might expect verses 6-11 to show how Isaac responded faithfully and trusted God fully... is that what these verses describe?**

*Answer: I love this about the Bible! The people and accounts are so honest and real. God speaks directly to Isaac detailing promises of blessing and prosperity, and Isaac turns around and responds with a nervous lie about his wife - exemplifying his lack of trust in God's plan and ways. We see a real man, with a real desire to trust and follow God, messing up. Let's not stop there though...*

- 2. How does God respond to Isaac's deception and taking matters into his own hands (V. 12-14)?**

*Answer: God responds by being faithful to what he said. His faithfulness is based on who he is and what he has said, not on a person's faithfulness or righteousness. Note: we don't know the exact time line between Isaac's lie about Rebekah and God's blessing him with a bountiful harvest, but the author clearly contrasts God's faithfulness to his word with Isaac's lack of faith.*

- 3. There is a lot of talk about wells and digging them/filling them in throughout this passage. What do you think is the significance of the wells?**

*Answer: Wells were vital for families and communities, and not as easy to come by as our kitchen faucets today. God had promised this land to Abraham and Isaac. He faithfully provided water sources to sustain their way of life in the land he promised. The wells confirm God's commitment to his promises. Note: it is interesting that God allowed some contention over the wells. Isaac and his family did not "have it easy" all the time just because God had promised land, seed, and blessing. They still had to wait and trust sometimes... and keep moving forward. It took a few tries before they were able to settle in and find that, "The Lord has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land." God often leaves room for us to grow in our faith and trust in him!*

- 4. What can we learn about God from this passage?**

*This is a great question to ask of every passage in the Bible. What parts of God's character are on display here?*

- 5. What can we learn about ourselves/mankind from this passage?**

*Also a great question to ask. Make some general observations about the people in this passage, and similarities to/differences from yourself.*