

Community Bible Church

The Book of Genesis

Chapters 25-26

The book of **Genesis** can be outlined simply as follows:

I. **Four Events** **Chapters 1-11**

II. **Four People** **Chapters 12-50**

1. From previous lessons, what are the **four events** and who are the **four people**?

In this week's lesson, **chapter 25** presents the demarcation between the life of the **patriarch Abraham** and the narrative regarding his son **Isaac**. The **Isaac story** continues from **chapter 25** to **chapter 28**. In this week's lesson, **chapters 25** and **26** will be the main focus of the study on this transition from **Abraham** to **Isaac**.

These two chapters may be outlined as follows:

I. **Chapter 25**

The Death of Abraham and his son Ishmael 25:1-18

The Life of Isaac and his sons Esau and Jacob 25:19-34

II. **Chapter 26**

Isaac settles in Gerar and God renews the Abrahamic Covenant 26:1-17

Isaac contends with the people of Gerar over wells and wealth 26:18-35

2. Read **25:1-11** and write a brief summary of Abraham's family and his farewell.

3. The death of Ishmael and the description of his extended family is given in **25:12-18**. By way of review, who is Ishmael and what is his role in history?

4. The life of **Isaac** comes under the full spotlight in **25:19-34**. Read **25:19-26** and describe what you learn about his family from this passage.

5. What else did you learn from **25:27-34**? The **“birthright”** in that culture was given to the eldest son who would inherit a double-portion of the father’s possessions as well as the headship of the family

6. Read **26:1-11**. There are many elements in this narrative that are similar to the experiences of Abraham many years earlier in **chapters 12 and 20**. Commentators suggest this repetition is purposeful to emphasize that each descendant of Abraham needs to understand genuine faith to appreciate the blessings of the covenant with their father. What recurrent themes do you see in this passage? (Note: This Abimelech is most likely a different person than the Philistine king mentioned previously. Also note that the geography of this area is what we know today from the news as the Gaza region south of Israel).

7. From **26:12-17**, what challenge does Isaac face next and what occurred?

8. Water rights and property quarrels are a major issue in **26:18-22**. From this passage, what are the main problems that are described? From **26:23-25** how did these problems appear to be resolved?

9. In your reading so far in **chapter 26**, can you identify any principles or personal applications of faithful, godly living that can apply to your life today?

10. Now read the final paragraph of this week’s study in **26:26-35**. The focal point of this passage is: **“We see plainly that the Lord has been with you.” (26:28)**. This is an affirmation of Isaac’s testimony. Describe what occurs in this passage.