

LESSON TWO. THE PATRIARCHS – UNDERSTANDING THE OLD TESTAMENT

INTRODUCTION:

1) TODAY WE WILL BE LOOKING AT *THE PATRIARCHS*

THINGS WE WILL LOOK AT IN THIS LESSON:

- 1) THE FAMILY TREE OF ISRAEL
- 2) ABRAHAM
- 3) ISAAC
- 4) JACOB
- 5) JOSEPH

PART 1 – THE FAMILY TREE OF ISRAEL:

Q 1) WHAT DOES THE FRAMEWORK OF THE BIBLE HELP US UNDERSTAND?

Q 2) WHAT IS A PATRIARCH?

PART 2 – ABRAHAM:

Q 3) HOW DOES GENESIS 12 BEGIN?

Q 4) WHERE DID ABRAHAM'S FAMILY ORIGINALLY LIVE?

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FIGURE 1)



Q 5) WHAT KIND OF PICTURE DOES THE BIBLE PAINT CONCERNING THE PEOPLE WITHIN ITS PAGES?

Q 6) WHAT SIX ELEMENTS DO WE SEE INVOLVING THE PROMISES OF GOD IN ABRAHAM'S LIFE?

Q 7) WHAT IS ONE OF THE WAYS THAT GOD ACCOMPLISHES HIS PURPOSES IN OUR LIVES?

FIGURE 2)

Significant Events in Abraham's Life	
<i>Event or Topic</i>	<i>Genesis</i>
Abram's call	12:1–9
Abram in Egypt	12:10–20
Abram and Lot separate	13:1–13
Abram promised the land	13:14–18
Abram rescues Lot	14:1–16
Abram blessed by Melchizedek	14:17–24
God's covenant with Abram	15:1–21
Abram, Hagar, and Ishmael	16:1–16
Abram's name changed; given circumcision as a covenant sign	17:1–27
Abraham intercedes for Sodom	18:1–33
Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed	19:1–38
Abraham and Abimelech	20:1–18
Isaac born; Hagar and Ishmael sent away	21:1–34
Abraham's great test	22:1–24
Abraham buries Sarah	23:1–20
Abraham sends his servant to get a wife for Isaac	24:1–67
Abraham leaves all to Isaac; dies	25:1–11

PART 3 – ISAAC:

God reconfirmed his covenant with Abraham and Isaac...

Genesis 22:15-18 — 15 The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time 16 and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, 18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

Genesis 26:1-5,24 — 1 Now there was a famine in the land—besides the previous famine in Abraham’s time—and Isaac went to Abimelek king of the Philistines in Gerar. 2 The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. 3 Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. 4 I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, 5 because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions.” ... 24 That night the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham.”

Q 8) WHAT TWO THINGS DOES THE STORY OF ABRAHAM SECURING A WIFE FOR ISAAC DEMONSTRATE?

Q 9) WHAT DOES THE STORY OF ABRAHAM SECURING A WIFE FOR ISAAC AFFIRM?

FIGURE 3)

Significant Events in Isaac's Life	
<i>Event</i>	<i>Genesis</i>
Isaac marries Rebekah	24:1–67
Rebekah gives birth to Esau and Jacob	25:19–26
Esau sells his birthright to Jacob	25:27–34
God confirms His covenant to Isaac	26:1–5, 24
Isaac lies to Abimelech's men	26:6–22
God blesses Isaac	26:23–33
Isaac favors Esau	26:34–27:4
Isaac blesses Jacob and Esau	27:5–28:9
Isaac dies	35:28–29

PART 4 — JACOB:

Q 10) WHAT TWO VALUABLE LESSONS DO WE LEARN FROM THE PATRIARCHS AND THEIR FAMILIES?

FIGURE 4)

Significant Events in Jacob's Life	
<i>Event or Topic</i>	<i>Genesis</i>
Jacob's dream at Bethel	28:10–22
Jacob's wives, family, and wealth	29–30
Jacob parts with Laban	31:1–32:2
Jacob and Esau are reconciled	32:3–33:17
Jacob's trouble at Shechem	33:18–34:31
Jacob worships at Bethel	35:1–15
Jacob buries Rachel at Bethlehem	35:16–20
Jacob's sons	35:23–26
Jacob and his descendants move to Egypt	46:1–47:31
Jacob blesses his sons and grandsons, dies	48–49
Jacob's burial in Canaan	50:1–14

PART 5 — JOSEPH:

Q 11) WHAT IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE CAN WE SEE IN JOSEPH'S LIFE, REGARDING FAITHFULNESS AND OBEDIENCE TO GOD?

Q 12) WHAT IS ONE OF THE MANY LESSONS WE LEARN FROM THE STORY OF JOSEPH?

FIGURE 5)

Significant Events in Joseph's Life	
<i>Event or Topic</i>	<i>Genesis</i>
Joseph hated by his brothers and sold	37:1–36
(Judah and Tamar)	38
Joseph, Potiphar's wife, prison	39:1–23
Joseph interprets dreams; is promoted	40–41
Joseph's brothers seek food in Egypt	42
Joseph's brothers' second trip to Egypt	43
Judah's plea for Benjamin	44
Joseph and his brothers reconcile	45
Joseph reunited with Jacob	46:28–47:12
Joseph guides Egyptians through the famine	47:13–26
Joseph's prophecy and death	50:15–26

HOMEWORK FOR THE WEEK:

Read Genesis 12-35 or 37-50. If you need to break them up, try to read each person's story at one time. If you choose to use an Audio Bible, that is fine too.

