

WARM-UP

- When there are major decisions in your life, who do you seek advice from?
- What is one topic that you read up on out of personal interest? What interesting information did you discover about it?
- What is one seemingly illogical advice you followed, which proved to be a wise thing to do? Briefly share what happened.

WORD *¹Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines. ²And the LORD appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. ³Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father."*

GENESIS 26:1-3

(Read also **GENESIS 26:4-6, 12-14.**)

We see in this passage that Isaac was confronted with a very challenging situation—a famine in their land. Any person under such circumstances would try to come up with a solution, and Isaac was no exception. Today, we will see how Isaac responded to this challenge in two ways. Together, may Isaac's response help us flourish in our own walk with God.

1 | Seek the word of God.

²And the LORD appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. ³Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. ⁴I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, ⁵because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."

GENESIS 26:2-5

Isaac had witnessed the devotion of Abraham, his father, to God. He knew from experience how clearly God had spoken to him. Faced with a difficult situation that could alter the course of his life, it is likely that Isaac was actively seeking guidance. He remembered that when Abraham had also faced a famine and moved to Egypt to secure all his possessions. Isaac seemed to be inclined to do the same thing. But while he made his own plans, he remained open to hear from God and was sensitive to His leading. And God did speak: God did not only tell Isaac exactly what to do, He also assured him that the promise given to Abraham would be passed on to him. God assured Isaac of His presence in his life. Share about a time when you desperately sought God's guidance. What did you do and how did God speak to you?

2 | Obey the word of God.

⁶So Isaac settled in Gerar. . . . ¹²And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold . . . **GENESIS 26:6, 12**

Isaac did exactly what God had commanded him to do. In our natural minds, staying in a land where there is famine may not be a good idea. But that is what Isaac did. He *settled in Gerar*, just as God had said. He planted crops in that land, showing his complete faith and trust in God. In return, God blessed his obedience with a hundredfold harvest *in the same year*—during a famine. Sometimes, what God tells us makes no sense. But, just like Isaac, we can expect God to do miraculous things. When we obey His word, He will reward our obedience.

God promised that if we seek Him with all our hearts, we will find Him (Jeremiah 29:13). His word is like a seed planted in our hearts. This seed will grow and bear fruit, and we will experience a harvest of His word. When we seek God through His word and obey Him, we will experience His reality in our lives.

APPLICATION

- How do you respond to God's commands that are difficult to obey? Ask God to show you how you can grow in trusting Him and pray that you would obey Him wholeheartedly.
- Is the word of God the source of your wisdom? What are you willing to do to have a greater hunger for His word this week? (e.g., spending time praying, meditating on, and confessing God's word)
- Do you believe that whenever God blesses our obedience, it does not just affect us, but also the people around us? How can your obedience create a platform for you to share about God's goodness in your life and point people to Him?

PRAYER

- Thank God for His guidance that puts you in a place where you can be fruitful. Ask God for greater sensitivity to the leading of His Spirit.
- Pray that your life would be marked by obedience to His word. Ask God to fill your heart with faith to believe that He is a God of miracles, and that He will reward your obedience with His blessing.
- This week, pray that God would lead you to someone who does not yet know Him. Ask God to prepare you to tell this person about who God is, what He has done, and how He continues to provide for you.



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