



# Happy Father's Day

*Don't be afraid to make this journey; remember when God cared for you in Egypt & in the wilderness all the way to this place - JUST LIKE a father carries his son. (Deut. 1:29-31)*

## ISAAC

1. Who was Isaac's father? (Gen. 21:3) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who was Isaac's mother? (Gen. 21:3) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who was Isaac's half-brother? (Gen. 16:11) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why was there a half-brother? (Gen. 16:1-5) \_\_\_\_\_

*Since there is a half-brother, we know that the birth mother & the father are not the same for both boys. In this story, we know that the father is the same for both (Abraham). The mothers are different.*

5. Two half-brothers in a family are equals; they are just children who had nothing to say about how parents put the family together. However, how could this complicate the dynamics of a family? \_\_\_\_\_

*Gen. 16:1-4 Now Sarai, Abram's wife had borne him no children. She had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. So Sarai said to Abram, "The Lord has restrained me from bearing children. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her."*

6. Why was Sarai so desperate to have a kid that she suggested such a disgusting plan?  
(Gen. 12:2) "I will make you a great \_\_\_\_\_."  
(Gen. 12:7) "To your \_\_\_\_\_, I will give this land."  
(Gen. 13:16) God said, "I will make your \_\_\_\_\_ as the dust of the earth."  
(Gen. 15:5) God said, "Look up and count the stars if you are able to count them. That will be the number of your \_\_\_\_\_."

*Since women were expected to have children for their husbands, the subject would certainly be discussed in the family. Abram & Sarai probably talked about it. However, instead of waiting for God to handle it, Abram & Sarai took matters into their own hands.*

7. In the five verses above, who was God talking to? \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No Is there any indication that his wife heard these words?
9. If she knew about these words from God, who should have told her? \_\_\_\_\_

*In Biblical days, most marriages were not about romantic love. The fathers of two families got together and planned a future marriage between a son & a daughter. The purpose of the marriage was to produce children & keep the family clan going. Sometimes, the bride & groom had never met until the beginning of the engagement process.*

10. In Jewish culture, during the engagement period (1 year or more), who was the responsible party in this marriage process?  
\_\_\_Family attorney \_\_\_The Groom \_\_\_ The groom's father \_\_\_The priest

11. When the engagement process was over and the marriage was completed, who was the responsible person in the new family?  
 Divorce lawyer  New Groom  The Bride  The bride's mother
12. The responsible person in a family was not a better person than the spouse - just the designated driver chosen by God. If God wanted to communicate with the family, who do you think He normally appeared to? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Some of the new Biblical fathers were contacted by either the Lord Himself or by an angel of the Lord about the potential pregnancies. Name 4 of the fathers:
  - a. Luke 1:13 \_\_\_\_\_ Matt. 1:20 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Gen. 2:17 \_\_\_\_\_ Gen. 18:10 \_\_\_\_\_
14.  Yes  No Is there any indication that any of the men mentioned the first contact from the Lord to their wives?
15. Ok, I know this was probably a cultural thing; but, doesn't this put a strain on the relationship between the husband and wife. Your thoughts.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
16. Here's a great question. In Luke 1:31, why did God's angel appear to Mary (the mother) about Jesus' pending birth before he appeared to Jacob (the father??)?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
17. How did Sarai (Abraham's wife) find out she was going to have a child? (Gen. 18:10)  
 \_\_\_\_\_

#### A Few Thoughts

- Abraham may have failed to communicate God's will & plans to his wife, Sarah.
  - Not all the customs in Biblical times were that beneficial; some came from pagan nations.
  - Isaac certainly learned the family facts as he got older; how did that affect him?
  - Unfortunately, Isaac probably learned behaviors & decision-making skills that were not good.
18. Another potential kick in the teeth - were Isaac & Ishmael full brothers?  Y  N
  19.  Yes  No Even though Isaac & Ishmael could have been 14 years apart, they were probably raised together there on the family compound.
  20. Jewish families were tight; older kids looked after & played with the younger kids; old kids taught things to the younger; the older protected the younger. Did you have a family dynamic like this?  Yes  No

#### THE PLOT THICKENS

21. The plan to shack up Abraham with the maid Hagar leads to what?
  - a. (Gen. 16:4) Sarah hated who? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. (Gen. 16:6) Sarah mistreated who? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. (Gen. 16:6) Who became indecisive to avoid conflict? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Gen. 17:10) Who became sneaky & untrusting? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. (Gen. 18:15) Who denied laughing at God's Word? \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. (Gen. 21:10) Who did Sarah disown? \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. (Gen. 21:11) Who was very displeased? \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. (Gen. 16:5) Who did Sarah blame for the whole mess? \_\_\_\_\_

22. How do you think Abraham felt when, while he was mad at Sarah, God told him to listen to what she is saying? (Gen. 21:12) \_\_\_\_\_
23. If you grew up with a brother, and then, one day your father & mother made him leave their home & go away, how would you get over that pain? (Gen. 21:14)  
\_\_\_\_\_
24.  Yes  No Have you faced anything like this?  
Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

*Isaac's Dad, Abraham, was not perfect as we have seen, but he was trying to honor God.*

25. How do we know that Abraham was trying?  
a. Gen. 22:1 - God spoke to Abraham; Abraham replied, \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Gen. 22:7 - Isaac spoke to Abraham; Abraham replied, \_\_\_\_\_  
c. Gen. 22:11 - God spoke to Abraham; Abraham replied, \_\_\_\_\_
26. Did Isaac understand what Abraham was doing?  Yes  No

*I still have bad feelings about having to move away from my friends, and to go to a "new everything". My Dad was doing a good thing but I hated him, and I lost the ability to trust people after that.*

27.  Yes  No Did Isaac survive the pain of losing a brother when his parents threw him out with "his" mom?
28.  Yes  No Do you think Abraham ever discussed with his son Isaac the pain he felt when he left his own brother, Nahor, behind, back in Mesopotamia?  
(Remember, Nahor was the next son after Abraham - they were close)
29.  Yes  No Do you think Abraham ever shared with son Isaac the pain he felt when his baby brother, Haran, died back in Mesopotamia?

*I remember when my mom had a baby when I was 7. I was going to have a brother; he was sick and they took him away. He came back later, but, at the time, my heart froze with fear; I lost something that I wanted to love. I had a hard time loving after that.*

### **ANOTHER LOSS FOR ISAAC**

Gen. 13:8 Abram said, "Please let there be no strife between you and me."

Gen. 13:14 .....Lot separated himself from Abraham..

30. Isaac and Lot were cousins; they grew up in the same household. There was an age difference but they still were family. Isaac had seen Lot his whole life. Explain the feelings generated in Isaac when he saw the workers fighting each other; and then, Lot finally leaving Abraham. \_\_\_\_\_
31.  Yes  No Do you think his Dad, Abraham, ever told Isaac the deep love he had for Lot; he raised Lot for his deceased brother.

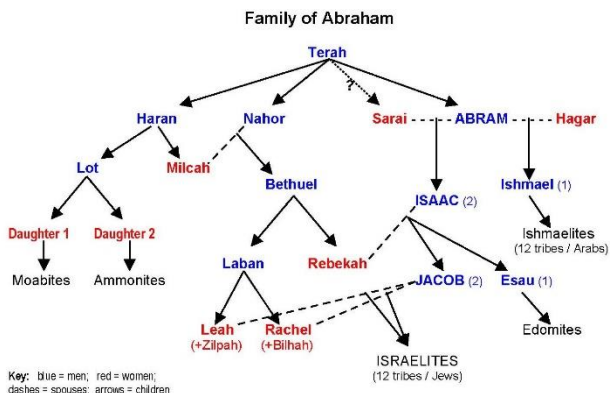
*I have tried through the years to explain to my own kids the feelings I had during various aspects of my life. We fathers do a poor job of training our kids in that way; it takes more vulnerability than we are willing to show. My son asked me one time if I loved my father. I said, "yes, but I don't like him."*

32.  Yes  No Isaac had a lot of uncertainties & losses in the family. Do you think he might have developed some trust issues?

## THE FATHER ISAAC BECAME

Gen. 24:2-4 So Abraham instructed his servant, who was the oldest member of his household and in charge of everything he owned, "Make this solemn oath to me<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>3</sup> as a promise to the LORD, the God of heaven and earth, that you won't acquire a wife for my son from the Canaanite women among whom I'm living. <sup>4</sup> Instead, you are to go to my country and to my family and acquire a wife for my son Isaac."

- Isaac's Dad, Abraham, arranged for his marriage:
  - Where did he **not want** to find a wife for Isaac? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Where did he **want** to find a wife for Isaac? \_\_\_\_\_
- Look at Gen. 24:4.
  - Where did his extended family live? (Gen 11:28-29) \_\_\_\_\_



### Look Closer

- Abraham's servant traveled back to Mesopotamia where Abraham came from in the first place.
- The girl he met was named Rebekah.
- Even though his extended family worshipped idols, he wanted Isaac's wife from his own people.
- Rebekah was the grand-daughter of his brother.
- Rebekah agreed to come & she & Isaac married.

- Earlier we learned that Jewish marriages started with an engagement (could last 1 year), with the couple living in the groom's father's home. Does it look like this happened with Isaac and Rebekah? (Gen. 24:67)  Yes  No (Probably just not mentioned)
- The groom's father usually controlled the marriage process; however, Abraham was very old & probably couldn't himself, but he could delegate it to the main servant. It must have gone ok because after Abraham died, "God blessed Isaac." (Gen. 25:11)
- Isaac seemed to trust God. What did he pray about? (Gen. 25:21) \_\_\_\_\_
- Isaac had a dysfunctional relationship with his sons. Explain. (Gen. 25:28) \_\_\_\_\_
- Isaac lied just like his father. What was that about? (Gen. 26:6-9) \_\_\_\_\_
- Yes  No Did Isaac trust his younger son, Jacob? (Gen. 27:21)
- Yes  No Did Isaac & Rebekah have a healthy relationship? (Gen. 27:5-7)
- Think back over Isaac's years. What could have happened to cause him to fear losing control, losing people close to him, trusting people, etc.? \_\_\_\_\_

*We men are more fragile than we want to admit. Those fears, losses, disappointments, and bad examples that I saw damaged me and I didn't even know it. I over-reacted, handled too many issues with anger, demonstrated lack of trust, assassinated people's characters, and made a fool of myself. Lord, my kids needed me but I spent most of my time trying to catch up from the losses of my childhood. I told my kids I was sorry; I told my wife I was sorry; I asked God to repair the little boy I still have within me.*