

## Genesis 26 – Prospering in A Time of Famine – Part I

### May 3, 2020 Discussion Notes

Everyone is encouraged to bring a Bible

(Phone apps are good for reading together in the same translation. Study Bibles give help with interpretation.)



#### PROSPERING IN A TIME OF FAMINE

- DON'T PANIC
- TRUST IN GOD
- OBEY HIS WORD
- BLESS OTHERS



#### Questions:

1. When you were growing up, was your family wealthy or more on the poor side? How do you think the experience of those years shaped you?
2. Have you experienced prosperity in ways during this quarantine? Share with your group.
3. Review: What crisis did Isaac face in Genesis 26? What ended up happening?
4. What do you remember about each of the main points of the sermon? (seen above). Was God speaking to you through this? Do you have any questions to bring up?
5. Read Genesis 26:12-13
  - a) According to the text, why was Isaac blessed like this? (See Genesis 26:2-6)
  - b) How do you feel about the word “prosperity”? Do you feel that it carries any negative connotations?
  - c) Do you think it’s okay to desire prosperity? Why or why not?
6. Read Matthew 19:23-26
  - a) Why do you think it is difficult for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven?
  - b) Why do you think Jesus used such an extreme illustration? (Note: some have been taught that the “eye of the needle” referred to a gate with a low ceiling that camels would struggle to get through. There was so no such gate in Jesus’ day, so seems that Jesus was painting a word picture involving an actual sewing needle. Commentaries agree with this view which also fits well with the disciples’ great astonishment at Jesus’ words)
  - c) Why were the disciples so shocked? How do you think they viewed money?
  - d) How might wealth hinder someone in their walk with God?
7. Read 1 Timothy 6:9-11
  - a) What are some of the dangers of wealth listed here?
  - b) Do you consider yourself to be rich? Why or why not?
  - c) What was Timothy told to do concerning the temptations involved with wealth?
8. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19
  - a) According to this passage, is it wrong for a Christian to be materially wealthy?
  - b) What perspective should materially wealthy Christians have?
  - c) What actions should materially wealthy Christians take?
  - d) What rewards are involved with being generous?
  - e) If someone examined your bank statements and credit card statements, what would they discover about your level of generosity?
  - f) In what ways can you step out in faith to be more generous?
9. Based on Genesis 26 and the other Scriptures you’ve read, how would you summarize a good Christian perspective on money and prosperity?
10. Now spend some time praying for each other. Pray that God would bless and prosper your families during this time. Pray that He would use you to bless others. And pray for any specific prayer needs.