

Meditations for your week

Who are the courageous people in my spiritual heritage? What qualities did they show that are worthy of imitation? What do I see of them in myself? How well have I represented my spiritual heritage? How have I continued and even bettered their work?

How has the strength of my heritage allowed me to coast through my spiritual life? What are some things I have to face that people before me didn't have to face? In what ways have I claimed a faith and purpose that is my own?

Although I love my spiritual heritage, what mistakes did they make? How have I repeated their mistakes? How have I made mistakes by going to the opposite extremes of what they did? What are we destined to repeat every generation?

Of whose spiritual heritage am I a part? What have they seen in me that has taught them, encouraged them, and empowered them? What is something specific I can begin to do that will excite the next generation about faith and God's purposes?



Sermon Notes
February 7, 2021

*"Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God,
till I declare your power to the next generation." —Psalm 71:18*

A Placeholder – Genesis 24-35

One of the most significant biblical questions is,

when the faithful are gone

will the next generation backslide,

ride the coat-tails, or thrive?

What is your responsibility to your heritage?

Have your own strength.

Don't repeat their errors.

Prepare the future.

Jesus empowers his disciples.

He trusts us.

He equips us.

He is present for us.

Group Discussion Questions

Open

When do you feel old? What causes you to feel rejuvenated?

Dig and Reflect

1. Read Genesis 27. What is Isaac's mental/emotional state at the beginning of the chapter? What do you think is going on with him spiritually as well? What do Rebekah's actions say about her character and their family dynamics?
2. What are the symptoms of when you are at a low point spiritually, when you are vulnerable to bad thoughts and decisions? How can you turn around a negative personal situation? How can you turn around a volatile family situation?
3. How many ways does Jacob do wrong by pretending to be Esau? What is the source of Jacob's wrongdoing? How does some wrong lead to more wrong?
4. How would you describe this ancient blessing ritual? Why do you think Isaac only had one good blessing? Why do you think God allows the blessing to stand even though it was received deceitfully?
5. How would you describe Esau's mental/emotional state? How are people hurt in these low, dysfunctional times?
6. Why does the generation after faithful Abraham struggle so much? How can there be a better transition from one faithful generation to the next? What have we learned in this story not to do?