

09.01 Keturah; Birth of Twins; Death of Abraham (Genesis 25:1-28)

✓ “Check” it out: opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows
[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher, not the student. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and/or visual aids found at the end of this lesson (Please give credit to the sources of pictures.)
- Check also “Activities” and “Handwork” below for additional suggested items.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *family life*: the oldest son became the head of the family after the death of the father; he received a double portion of the inheritance

Scripture—Genesis 25:1-28 (ESV)

25:1 Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. 2 She bore him [six sons]. . . . 5 Abraham gave all he had to Isaac. 6 But to the sons of his concubines Abraham gave gifts, and while he was still living he sent them away from his son Isaac, eastward to the east country.

7 These are the days of the years of Abraham’s life, 175 years. 8 Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people. 9 Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, east of Mamre, 10 the field that Abraham purchased from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried, with Sarah his wife. 11 After the death of Abraham, God blessed Isaac his son. And Isaac settled at Beer-lahai-roi.

12 These are the generations of Ishmael, Abraham’s son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah’s servant, bore to Abraham. . . . 17 (These are the years of the life of Ishmael: 137 years. He breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.) 18 They settled from Havilah to Shur, which is opposite Egypt in the direction of Assyria. He settled over against all his kinsmen.

19 These are the generations of Isaac, Abraham’s son: Abraham fathered Isaac, 20 and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife. 21 And Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren. And the Lord granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived. 22 The children struggled together within her, and she said, “If it is thus, why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the Lord. 23 And the Lord said to her,

“Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.”

24 When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb. 25 The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. 26 Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau’s heel, so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

27 When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents. 28 Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Introduction/Review:

Sarah died at age 127; Abraham bought a cave near Mamre (Hebron) in order to bury her. Three years later, when Isaac was 40 years old and Abraham 140 years old, Isaac married Rebekah and lived southwest from Beersheba by Beer Lahairoi [see map at end of this lesson], where Hagar had first run away before Ishmael was born.

Story:

With Sarah dead and Isaac married, Abraham ✓ must have been lonely; so he took another wife, Keturah,

and had six more sons. However, knowing only Isaac was the son of the promise, Abraham gave gifts to these sons and sent all of them to the east country. He gave all that he had to Isaac (Genesis 25:5).

Praying for a child

Isaac and Rebekah were married nineteen years. In all that time they had not had a child. Is this beginning to sound like Abraham and Sarah? [Yes.] Why would God not give children again? [✓To teach his men to trust Him.] Again, God would open the barren womb in His own time. ✓This time it was in answer to prayer.

Isaac prayed that he and Rebekah would have children, and the LORD heard and answered this prayer. Rebekah knew she was going to have a “baby.” That “baby” grew and grew inside of her. If your mom has had children since you were born, you might remember how that baby kicked inside your mom. Maybe Mom had you put your hand on her stomach so that you could feel the baby move.

Wondering what’s going on

Rebekah’s “baby” really moved! It felt to Rebekah as if a war were going on inside her! What was happening!? What could or should she do?

What should we do when we are puzzled about something or when we have a problem? We should pray to God for wisdom and direction. That’s just what Rebekah did. She prayed, asking God, “What is happening inside me? Why is it this way?”

Now, these were the days before the Bible was written down. Rebekah couldn’t go to the book of Genesis or Psalms or Ephesians for comfort or understanding. No. Instead, the LORD answered her directly.

We have no record that God had yet spoken to Isaac as He had to Abraham before. But in Genesis 25:23 we read that the LORD spoke directly to Rebekah. What strange things he said. Listen.

Hearing God’s answer

“Two nations are in your womb.” Wait a minute. How many babies was Rebekah carrying? [Two!] Twins! But God was also prophesying that from these two babies would come two sets of people—lots of people—nations!

Did you know that when twins are born, one is born first—the older child? Then when the other twin is born, that is the younger one even if he or she is born only a few seconds or a few minutes after the first twin.

What else did God say? Listen. “The one people shall be stronger than the other people.”

Hmmm. I wonder which child would become the father of the stronger nation, the older or the younger. Let’s read on.

Serving the younger

“And the elder shall serve the younger.”

Oh, now I know. Do you? Which child would become the stronger, the older or the younger? [Reread the last part of the verse, emphasizing the word *serve*.]

Well, now, that’s interesting. The older child would eventually serve the younger one. Serving the younger child was NOT what happened in other families. The younger children always served the oldest son. The oldest son got the birthright—twice as much as each of the other kids—and he got the respect of the other brothers and sisters. In a king’s family the oldest son became the next king.

So, how could this be—the older serving the younger? Instead of the firstborn’s becoming the family head, the younger would be more powerful and get more inheritance. Rebekah surely must have thought long and hard about God was saying.

Seeing differences

Finally, it was time for the twins to be born. The first one was born, red all over “like a hairy garment.” Isaac and Rebekah named him Esau, which means “hairy”—lots of hair. [An aside: Once when I reviewed this lesson and asked for the name of the firstborn, a student exclaimed, “Harry!”] Then the second twin was born doing a strange thing: he was hanging onto Esau's heel. Otherwise, he looked like an ordinary baby. Isaac and Rebekah named him Jacob, which means “heel catcher.” It also means to become over another by trickery; another word for this meaning is *supplanter*.

Mourning Grandpa's death

The boys lived with their parents in tents. ✓Perhaps Grandpa Abraham lived close to them (Hebrews 11:9). But when the twins were fifteen years old, Grandpa Abraham died, being 175 years old. Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave Abraham had bought to bury Sarah.

Growing apart

As the twins grew up, they grew apart, for they were very, very different. Esau, the oldest, still was hairy. He liked to hunt and spent a lot of time out in the field. Isaac thought Esau was the better son, and he liked to eat the venison (deer meat) Esau shot. On the other hand, Rebekah favored Jacob, perhaps because he liked to hang around the tents or perhaps because she treasured God's prophecy that he would become greater than Esau.

What will happen to these men? How will Jacob become greater than Esau? Will he trick Esau? We will learn about this in the weeks to come.

Notes on Abraham's age: 137 years at Sarah's death (he lived 38 years after Sarah's death); 140 years at Isaac's marriage; 160 years at the birth of Esau and Jacob; 175 years at his death when Esau and Jacob were 15 years old.

Lessons from this lesson:

- When puzzled by life's troubles, seek the Lord.
- Just because a man likes to cook rather than hunt does make that person less of a man. Jacob was no sissy, as we will learn.

Activities:

- Play dough: babies; dish; bow and arrow
- Add a statement to the bulletin board, “Well, Lots of Things Happened at Wells.” For printables and a photo of the finished bulletin board, go to the Extras page at teachingthebibleto kids.org.
- Sing the last several stanzas of “Abraham” found at Lesson 08.01 or on the Songs page at teachingthebibleto kids.org
- Sing first three stanzas of “Isaac” found below or on the Songs page at teachingthebibleto kids.org.
- Act it out: Pair off students as Esau and Jacob. Have them show how they acted before they were born [fighting] and as boys and men [Esau, hunting; Jacob, cooking]. You may also have students pretend to be Rebekah and Isaac loving Jacob and Esau.
- Review questions: (Game: On a chalkboard or a white board write *Esau* and *Jacob*. When a student answers a questions correctly, [s]he gets to put a tally mark under the name of the person [s]he favors. The questions are all true or false. If false, have students correct the statement.
 1. After Sarah died, Abraham never married again. [False. He married Keturah.]
 2. Besides Ishmael and Isaac, Abraham had three other children. [False. Six sons.]
 3. Ishmael, Isaac, and Keturah's six sons all inherited Abraham's fortune equally. [False. Only Isaac

inherited Isaac's fortune.]

4. Rebekah had children the first year after she and Isaac married. [False.]
5. After nineteen years of marriage, Rebekah conceived. [True.]
6. Rebekah asked God why her pregnancy was so calm and ordinary. [False. Why she felt war was going on in her belly.]
7. God spoke to Isaac, saying Rebekah would have twins. [False. He spoke to Rebekah.]
8. The firstborn twin was named Esau. [True.]
9. Esau grew up to become a man's man. [True.]
10. Jacob's name means honest and true. [False. Tricker.]

Memory Verse[s]:

I John 3:11: "We should love one another."

Handwork:

Color a picture of Esau and Jacob (as babies or as men) [see below], making Esau more red and hairy than Jacob. Glue fake fur that has been snipped from fabric onto Esau. Draw a bow and arrow in Esau's hand and a pot or dish in Jacob's.

family life

Oldest child

2nd child

In Isaac's family

1st child

2nd child



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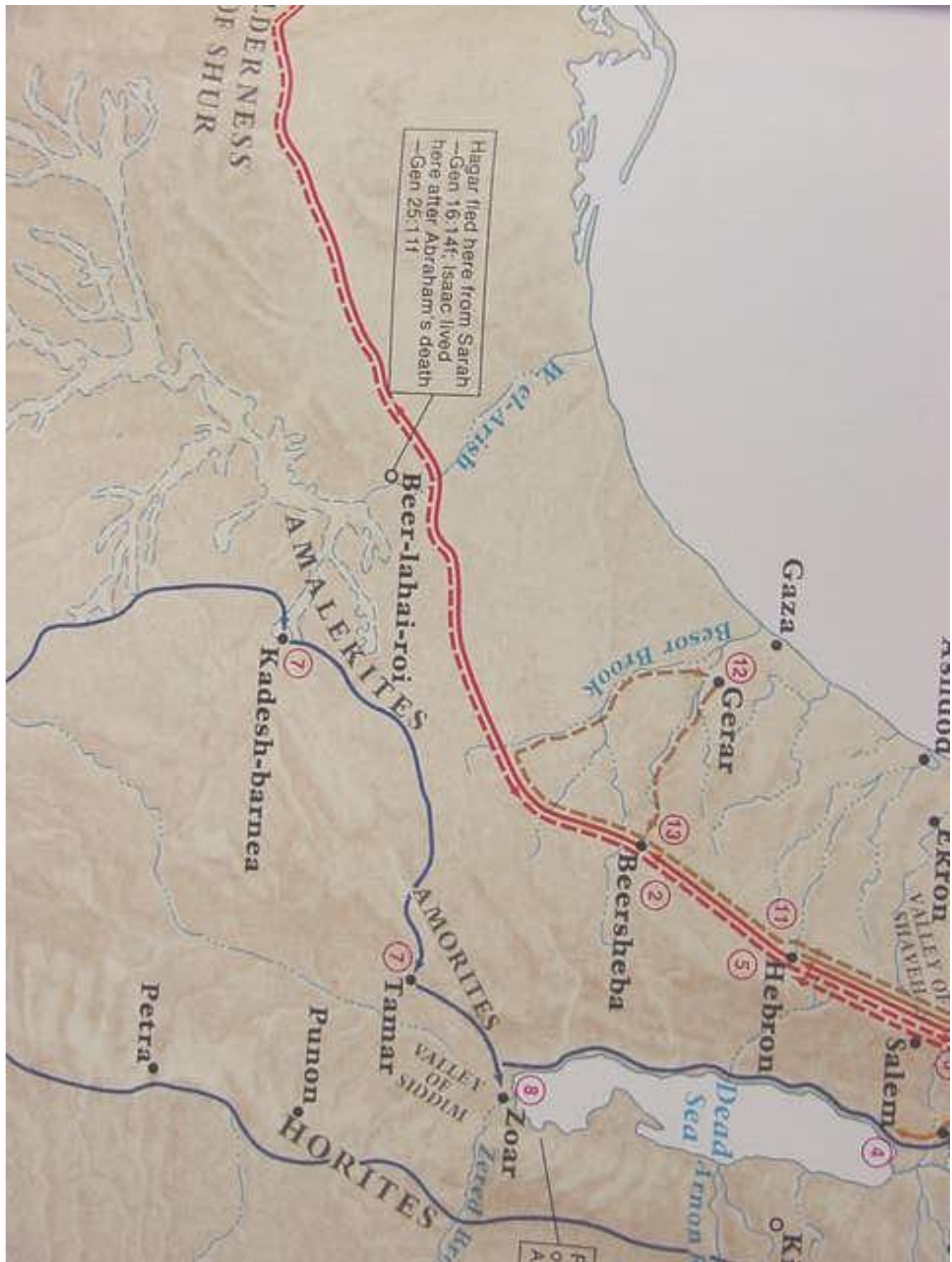




<http://www.firstpreswh.org/daily-devotional/another-dysfunctional-family-in-the-bible/>



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Isaac's father, Abraham, died after living
a full and happy life.



picture by Jill Johnson in *Faith Roots I*

Isaac

M. Alexander

1. Re - bek - saac, I - saac, God chose you. Re -
 2. Re - bek - ah, Re - bek - ah, God chose you. pray.
 3. Lord, Lord, to whom we choose you. king.
 4. E - sau, E - sau, Phil - God did not choose you.
 5. A - bim - i - lech, A - bim - i - lech, God - chose you.
 6. Ja - cob, Ja - cob, God - chose you.

3
 I - saac, I - saac, what did you do?
 bek - ah, Re - bek - ah, what did you do?
 Lord, Lord, what did you say?
 E - sau, E - sau, what did you do?
 bim - i - lech, A - bim - i - lech, what did you think?
 Ja - cob, Ja - cob, what did you do?

5
 "I - mar - ried Re - bek - ah; Twen - ty years we had no chil - dren.
 "I asked God why I felt such fight - ing in - side me.
 "Two boys will be born; the old - er serve the young - er."
 "I sold my birth - right for a bowl of red soup.
 "I en - vied I - saac; my ser - vants filled his wells.
 "I de - ceived my fath - er and stole the bless - ing.

7
 God heard my prayer; Re - bek - ah con - ceived." you."
 God said, "Two na - tions a Are in - side you."
 E - sau was born, then Ja - cob, a hair - y boy, then smooth one."
 That's how I him to showed leave, but I then we care for God's ways."
 I - sau was so ang - ry I had made a cov - e - nant."
 E - sau was so ang - ry I had made a get a - way."