

STUDY GUIDE

GENESIS: Week 11

8.3.14

[set up]

In the biblical account of Genesis 21, Abraham, Isaac, and Rebecca were all in different stages in life and each had major life decisions before them. Abraham needed to find a wife for his son, Isaac was wondering if he would ever get married, and Rebecca confronted with a major decision to go and be married to Isaac. In your life right now, what is the major decision that is facing you?

Has there been a major decision in your past that either worked out well or ended up being a very poor decision? What do you think the reason was for how the decision turned out?

[digging deeper]

If time allows, read Genesis 24:1-21, 61-67

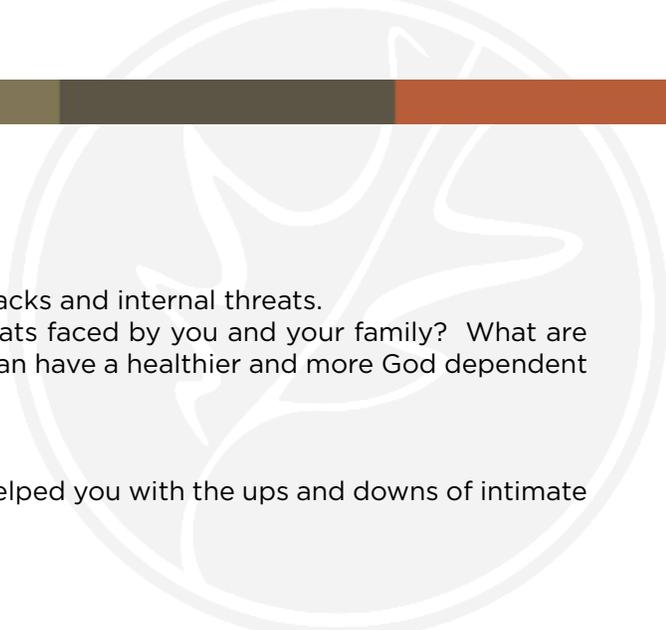
The story of Isaac and Rebecca shows that people were married and families formed in very different ways than they do today. What roles should the biological and spiritual family play in the relationships of family and friends? Do you think our culture is over-involved or under-involved in how relationships form, progress, and even dissolve? Are there ways for the Christian family to be a beautiful counterculture in this area?

We see that the relationship between Isaac and Rebecca was not perfect (cf. Genesis 27). But it is still a marriage that God blessed immensely. Read Ephesians 5:22-33. The apostle Paul in the book of Ephesians gives some guidelines for husbands and wives while he explains that marriage is an analogy of Christ and the church. Marriage is for each spouse to love, become like, and worship Jesus Christ.

How does marriage help someone love, become like, and worship Jesus Christ (you can answer this question even if you are not or never have been married)?

What are the best ways to prepare the heart for deep relationships like marriage?

Deep relationships like marriage and family open the heart to some of the greatest pain. How does the Bible say to respond to those who we love and who deeply hurt us? How did Christ respond when he experienced deep hurt from close friends and even family?



[living it out]

Everyone has a family, and every family experiences external attacks and internal threats. What are the most dangerous external attacks and internal threats faced by you and your family? What are ways for you to defend your family so that you and your family can have a healthier and more God dependent family?

Are there resources that you can share with the group that has helped you with the ups and downs of intimate relationships?

[additional resources]

Here are some additional resources on marriage and relationships:

The Meaning of Marriage by Tim and Kathy Keller

- This book is excellent for singles and marriage because it gives a biblical framework with which to view marriage and relationships

Love and Respect by Emmerson Eggerichs

- This book discussed the different needs a woman and a man have in a relationship

Boundaries: When to say Yes and How to Say No by Cloud and Townsend

- This book can be very helpful in establishing boundaries with family and friends