

TYNGSBORO YOUTH LECTURESHIP — *July 24, 2016*

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# The Life of Isaac

Unless noted, all scripture quotations taken from the English Standard Version (ESV)

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# The Life of Isaac

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## Portraits of the Patriarchs

- ❖ Judah / Noah
- ❖ Abraham / Lot
- ❖ Job / Cain and Abel
- ❖ Jacob / Moses
- ❖ **Isaac**
  - ❖ Surprising story
  - ❖ Encouraging for our Christian life

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# The Life of Isaac

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## Major events in the life of Isaac

- ❖ Abraham drives off Ishmael and Hagar after Ishmael is a problem (Gen 21:8-14)
- ❖ Abraham offers Isaac (Gen 22)
- ❖ Abraham's servant gets Isaac a wife (Gen 24)
- ❖ Isaac journeys to Gerar & Beersheba (Gen 26)
- ❖ Jacob deceives Isaac (Gen 27)
- ❖ Jacob and Esau bury Isaac (Gen 35:27-29)

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## Genesis 26

- ❖ God repeats the promise of Abraham to Isaac
- ❖ Isaac goes to Gerar, to Abimelech king of the Philistines
- ❖ Isaac lies about Rebekah, his wife
- ❖ Isaac gets pushed around by the Philistines
- ❖ Isaac moves to Beersheba, worships God as Abraham did
- ❖ Abimelech comes asking for a treaty

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## Lessons from the life of Isaac

- ❖ Isaac repeats the sin of his father Abraham
  - ❖ Even down to the details of the lie
  - ❖ Our children are watching!

We need God to deep down change us, or we will fall into the same mistakes of our parents

- ❖ Maybe as a new variation, but it's the same problem

We need to choose to be like our *Heavenly* Father

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.” (Eph 5:1)

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## Lessons from the life of Isaac

❖ Isaac makes the faith of his father Abraham his own faith

His call was the same as Abraham's

❖ God told him where to go (26:2)

❖ Isaac chose to obey and sojourn, even when it was difficult to do so (26:6)

❖ Isaac worshiped God, calling on His name (26:25)

❖ Isaac passed on the blessing to his own son (27:4)

We may have been born into a family of faith, but we will have to demonstrate our own faith

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**Isaac is an incredible example of humility and meekness**

- ❖ Isaac lives the least exciting, most insignificant life of just about anyone in the Bible
  - ❖ Only Patriarch to live his whole life (born and dies) in the land of Canaan
  - ❖ What does he do? Lives his life awaiting the promise that God will bring to his descendants
  - ❖ Doesn't really accomplish much
    - ❖ Mostly just does the exact same thing his father did

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## Structure of Genesis

“These are the generations...” (2:4; 5:1; 6:9; etc.)

= “These are the stories of the children of \_\_\_\_\_”

11:27 “Generations of Terah” → **Abram** / Lot

25:19 “Generations of Isaac” → **Jacob** / Esau

37:2 “Generations of Jacob” → **Joseph** / Judah

There is no “Generations of Abraham”

**There is no section for Isaac!**

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“Although Isaac is the second of the great patriarchs of faith, the information given about him is limited, and usually he is in the background scenes of his father’s story (ch 22), his servant’s story (ch 24) or his son’s story (ch 27)—the one exception is chapter 26, and even there, to a large degree, he is merely following in his father’s pattern.

From a literary standpoint, Isaac is a non-entity.

...there is no section of Genesis specifically dedicated to him [as there is for Abraham, Jacob, Joseph and Judah].... Isaac does not have a story.”

*The Growth of the Seed, Ward, pg 267-268.*

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Isaac *does* very little:

-is offered by his father...

-he doesn't find his own wife...

-he is deceived by his son...

The one chapter he gets is mostly about him being pushed around.

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**Isaac is an incredible example of humility and meekness**

James 3:13-18 (NKJV)

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.... **But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.** Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” (emph added)

- ❖ Isaac spent his life willing to yield, waiting for the promise, living a boring life without much exciting to tell...

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**“I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matt 8:11-12)**

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## Humility and meekness

1. Are we meek people?
  - ❖ ...gentle, lowly, “willing to yield,” slow to anger, obedient, humble, self-less, unassuming...
  - ❖ Two steps above doormat
  - ❖ Are we willing to be pushed around?

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## Humility and meekness

1. Are we meek people?

**Would your [family / teacher / boss / restaurant server / cashier, etc.] describe you as:**

- ❖ meek, gentle, obedient, calm, serving, helpful, unassuming?
- ❖ difficult, demanding rights, picky, self-focused, irritable?

Do I live in the “meekness of wisdom” or am I a trouble-maker?

Am I submissive to others or defensive of my rights?

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## **Humility and meekness**

2. Are we willing to live forgetful lives?

**I want you to live a great adventure in your faith...**

**...and then remember life won't usually feel like an adventure.**

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## Humility and meekness

2. Are we willing to live forgetful lives?
  - ❖ *Are we looking for an exciting life or are we excited about the life to come?*
  - ❖ *Are we trying to make our name known or to make His Name known?*
  - ❖ *Are we trying to live it up or live for others?*
  - ❖ *Are we willing to be an “unsung saint”?*

A humble life of service in the kingdom will bring great reward.

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# We sing for all the unsung saints

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We sing for all the unsung saints, that countless, nameless throng,  
who kept the faith and passed it on, with hope steadfast and strong,  
through all the daily griefs and joys no chronicles record,  
forgetful of their lack of fame, but mindful of the Lord.

So we take heart from unknown saints bereft of earthly fame,  
those faithful ones who have received a more enduring name:  
for they reveal true blessing comes when we our pride efface  
and offer back our lives to be the vessels of God's grace.