

Genesis 23 – 25 Community Group Discussion Questions

Opening Question: What's your favorite Kevin Bacon movie?

Tell them: This week Pastor Michael covered a large amount of scripture; Chapter 23 – 25. He covered the death of both Sarah and Abraham and the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah. He pointed out that chapter 24 is the longest chapter in the book of Genesis.

If you remember, Chapter 23 deals with the death of Sarah. And bookending 24, Chapter 25 deals with the death of Abraham. Then Chapter 24 is longest chapter in Genesis.

Tell them: Pastor Michael asked us, "What do we encounter about humanity?"

Ask them: *Does anyone remember what three things he listed?*

1. **We all mourn and die. Ask them:** *Why is it important to understand this? Ask them:* *How prepared are you for this idea?*
2. **We all seek love and comfort. Ask them:** *Why do you think that we all seek love and comfort in other people and stuff? What are some of the intrinsic dangers of seeking comfort in people and stuff?*
3. **We make decisions that make us. Ask them:** *Can you think of some decisions that have made you who you are today? What are some of the decisions that made Abraham?*

Tell them: The next question he asked was, "What do we encounter about God?"

1. **God keeps His promises. Ask them:** *What are some of the promises that you recall from our reading about the life of Abraham and Sarah? Are there any promises of God that you sometimes wonder if He will keep?*
2. **He bestows blessing. Ask them:** *What are some of your favorite blessings? What are some of your least favorite blessings? Tell them:* In the Sermon on the Mount we learn something about blessing that might change how we think about how God blesses. *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they*

will be shown mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them. "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil things about you falsely on account of me. Rejoice and be glad because your reward is great in heaven, for they persecuted the prophets before you in the same way." (Matthew 5:3–12, NET)

Ask them: *How does this idea of blessing help you to recognize the blessings that God that you may have previously missed?*

- 3. He paints another picture. Tell them:** God paints another picture in this story of Christ and the church. Isaac foreshadows Christ while Rebekah foreshadows the church. (For a deeper look at this, check out the [Genesis 23 – 24 Individual Bible Study](http://achurchforyou.com) at achurchforyou.com)

Tell them: Finally, Pastor Michael asked us to **Examine our hearts.**

- 1. What are you becoming? Tell them:** Pastor Michael said that the decisions you make are making you. He asked us, "If you look at your decisions, what are you becoming?" **Ask them:** *What do you think about the idea that the decisions you make are making you? Ask them:* *If you could pick one adjective to describe what you are becoming, what would it be?*
- 2. When are you obeying?** Pastor Michael talked of two kinds of obedience – immediate and delayed. **Ask them:** *Does anyone struggle with procrastination? How about procrastinating doing something you know God wants you to do? Or to stop doing something he doesn't want you to do? Tell them:* Parents often say, "Delayed obedience is disobedience." **Ask them:** *How many of you have thought or said that delayed obedience is disobedience? Tell them:* Pastor Michael explained that delayed obedience implies obedience is coming. He said that delayed obedience is a part of the journey of obedience; it's victory with regrets. Delayed obedience leads ultimately to obedience. **Ask them:** *What did you think of this idea of delayed obedience? Ask them:* *What is the difference between rebellion and delayed obedience?*

Ask them: *Do you recall any major milestones of delayed obedience that you finally obeyed?*

Tell them: Delayed obedience can saddle you with bad guilt. Bad guilt is what you feel when you've already confessed your sin but you either don't think God can forgive you or you refuse to forgive yourself. We all live with delayed obedience. It's a part of being a sinful human. But bad guilt is not for the believer. We can know that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. **Ask them:** *Do any of you struggle with not being able to accept the idea of forgiveness?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael asked, "Where is your comfort?" He said that if you are looking for comfort in your idols, then you aren't looking for comfort in Jesus. Any comfort other than Jesus is finite. It will soon end. **Ask them:** *Have you given any thought to how you would react if you lost the people or things that give you comfort? What will you do when it ends?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael asked a very important question: "Who is your next link?" Jesus is not only a chain breaker, He is a chain maker. He connects the links of the chain of faith starting with Adam and Eve, going up through Abraham and, ultimately, to Jesus. You have a chain that goes all the way back to the disciples, but who is your next link in the chain of faith?

Ask them: *Who are the people who were a link in the chain of your spiritual family? Does the chain end with you? If so, when will be obedient to share the faith the was shared with you?*

Remind everyone: that next week is drive-in service, weather permitting, and to bring their old clothes and household items to give to charity. We also need candy for the candy cruise-in.

Tweetable Quotes to Ponder and Share

1. Delayed obedience is a part of the journey of obedience; It is victory with regrets: it is immaturity on its way to maturity. Thank God for His grace.
2. If you are looking for comfort in your idols, then you aren't looking for comfort in Jesus.
3. Who is the next link in your chain of faith?