

WEEK 4

A LIFE OF FAITH

Daily Worship Guide

HEARTS JOINED IN WORSHIP

This guide was prayerfully designed to help you continue to grow daily in your knowledge and love of God, as well as stay connected with your brothers and sisters in Christ during this time of separation.

Each day contains Scripture readings from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs, to give you a big-picture snapshot of God's character and love for His people throughout the whole Bible.

You'll also find Praise and Prayer prompts where you can choose a hymn, devotional song, or contemporary song to sing to the Lord. You can use the prayer prompt to pray for the specific area of focus that day.

These are suggestions to help you get going, but not rigid rules. The daily worship time is designed to be about 15 minutes long, but you can feel free to add to it! Sing a couple songs or spend more time in prayer.

Finally, we hope that you will share your experiences with one another. We have such an amazing opportunity to share what God is doing in our lives and encourage one another. Sharing how God is working through you, builds up the body of Christ and makes us all stronger in our faith.

Post your thoughts, stories, or videos on the Circle Family Facebook Group or email them to Thomas to be included in our weekly emails.

Grace and Peace,

Circle Church of Christ

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DAILY WORSHIP GUIDE #22

OLD TESTAMENT

Gen. 26:1-33

Isaac and Abimelek

26 Now there was a famine in the land—besides the previous famine in Abraham’s time—and Isaac went to Abimelek king of the Philistines in Gerar. 2 The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. 3 Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your

descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. 4 I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring[a] all nations on earth will be blessed,[b] 5 because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions.” 6 So Isaac stayed in Gerar. 7 When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he said, “She is my sister,” because he was afraid to say, “She is my wife.” He thought, “The men of this place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful.” 8 When Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelek king of the Philistines looked down from a window and saw Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah. 9 So Abimelek summoned Isaac and said, “She is really your wife! Why did you say, ‘She is my sister’?” Isaac answered him, “Because I thought I might lose my life on account of her.” 10 Then Abimelek said, “What is this you have done to us? One of the men might well have slept with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us.” 11 So Abimelek gave orders to all the people: “Anyone who harms this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.” 12 Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the Lord blessed him. 13 The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy. 14 He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him. 15 So all the wells that his father’s servants had dug in the time of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up, filling them with earth. 16 Then Abimelek said to Isaac, “Move away from us; you have become too powerful for us.” 17 So Isaac moved away from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar, where he settled. 18 Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them. 19 Isaac’s servants dug in the valley and discovered a well of fresh water there. 20 But the herders of Gerar quarreled with those of Isaac and said, “The water is ours!” So he named the well Esek,[c] because they disputed with him. 21 Then they dug another well, but they quarreled over that one also; so he named it Sitnah. [d] 22 He moved on from there and dug another well, and no one quarreled over it. He named it Rehoboth,[e] saying, “Now the Lord has given us room and we will flourish in the land.” 23 From there he went up to Beersheba. 24 That night the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham.”

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25 Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the Lord. There he pitched his tent, and there his servants dug a well.²⁶ Meanwhile, Abimelek had come to him from Gerar, with Ahuzzath his personal adviser and Phicol the commander of his forces. 27 Isaac asked them, “Why have you come to me, since you were hostile to me and sent me away?”²⁸ They answered, “We saw clearly that the Lord was with you; so we said, ‘There ought to be a sworn agreement between us’—between us and you. Let us make a treaty with you 29 that you will do us no harm, just as we did not harm you but always treated you well and sent you away peacefully. And now you are blessed by the Lord.”³⁰ Isaac then made a feast for them, and they ate and drank. 31 Early the next morning the men swore an oath to each other. Then Isaac sent them on their way, and they went away peacefully.³² That day Isaac’s servants came and told him about the well they had dug. They said, “We’ve found water!” 33 He called it Shibah,[f] and to this day the name of the town has been Beersheba.[g]

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 20

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay them a denarius[a] for the day and sent them into his vineyard.³ “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. 4 He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ 5 So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. 6 About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’⁷ “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.” He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’⁸ “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’⁹ “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. 10 So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. 11 When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 12 ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’¹³ “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? 14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. 15 Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’¹⁶ “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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Jesus Predicts His Death a Third Time

17 Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the Twelve aside and said to them, 18 “We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death 19 and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!”

A Mother’s Request

20 Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. 21 “What is it you want?” he asked. She said, “Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.” 22 “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said to them. “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?” “We can,” they answered. 23 Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.” 24 When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. 25 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Two Blind Men Receive Sight

29 As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. 30 Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!” 31 The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!” 32 Jesus stopped and called them. “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked. 33 “Lord,” they answered, “we want our sight.” 34 Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

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PSALMS

Psalms 18:35-50

35 You make your saving help my shield, and your right hand sustains me; your help has made me great.
 36 You provide a broad path for my feet, so that my ankles do not give way. 37 I pursued my enemies and overtook them; I did not turn back till they were destroyed.
 38 I crushed them so that they could not rise; they fell beneath my feet.
 39 You armed me with strength for battle; you humbled my adversaries before me.
 40 You made my enemies turn their backs in flight, and I destroyed my foes.
 41 They cried for help, but there was no one to save them— to the Lord, but he did not answer.
 42 I beat them as fine as windblown dust; I trampled them[a] like mud in the streets.
 43 You have delivered me from the attacks of the people; you have made me the head of nations. People I did not know now serve me,
 44 foreigners cower before me; as soon as they hear of me, they obey me.
 45 They all lose heart; they come trembling from their strongholds.
 46 The Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God my Savior!
 47 He is the God who avenges me, who subdues nations under me, 48 who saves me from my enemies.
 You exalted me above my foes; from a violent man you rescued me.
 49 Therefore I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will sing the praises of your name. 50 He gives his king great victories; he shows unfailing love to his anointed, to David and to his descendants forever.

PROVERBS

Proverbs 4:11-13

11 I instruct you in the way of wisdom
 and lead you along straight paths.
 12 When you walk, your steps will not be hampered;
 when you run, you will not stumble.
 13 Hold on to instruction, do not let it go;
 guard it well, for it is your life.

DISCUSSION

Isaac, like Abraham, had trouble trusting God even with the assurance's of God's promises. But God had indeed planned for Abimelek's presence with Isaac, as He plans for the many workers that will contribute to His plan through time. Even those who feel like enemies or competitors can end up being workers for the Kingdom, and help teach those around them the wisdom of God.

What lessons about God have you learned from surprising places or people?

How have you seen God work in your own life where you'd have trouble trusting?

What do these passages teach us about God?

What do they teach us about ourselves?

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

Staying connected is so important during this time.

Please share something that has touched your heart through your time in God's word this week.

It will encourage your brothers and sisters and create a deeper connection with one another while we are apart.

Post your thoughts, favorite song or a short video at the Circle Family News Facebook Page, or email Thomas and we'll include in next week's email!

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS

We would love for you to invite people you know to be apart of our daily worship and encouragement!

The Facebook Group is private so that you can share freely, but friends are welcome to join! Requests will be approved by the group moderators as they pop up!

SING TO THE LORD

Take a moment to sing a Song of Praise that is on your heart.

PRAY ALWAYS

Prayer of Praise & Worship to the Lord

