



## A Promise Kept

Rev. Steve DeNeff

Genesis 25:5-11; Hebrews 11:8-16

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### Prayer:

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. **Ephesians 3:16-19**

### Discussion Starter

What legacy have you received and who left that legacy?

## Sermon Summary

We are, most of us, only 2-3 generations away from being forgotten unless we leave a legacy. When we do, we leave something of ourselves in the next generation. Abraham's legacy (and ours) involves three layers: (1) his assets, (2) his promise, and (3) his God (or "the God of Abraham"). Each one weighs more than the one before it. Yet when most of us think of leaving a legacy we think primarily of leaving assets, whether property or a position. But this ignores the other more important parts of our legacy. When we leave a Promise, we pass on the beliefs and the stories of how God has met us over the years, how he changed our name, how he blessed us, how he will bless the world thru us. The Promise is the narrative that our family (team, organization, etc) is living out in this world. When we leave our God to the next generation we give them the most important legacy. So the most important part of our legacy isn't so much, "What are we leaving?" but "Who is our God?"

## Sermon Review Questions

As you think about influencing the next generation in your family, team, office of organization, ask yourself a few questions:

1. Who is the God of \_\_\_\_ (insert your name)? Describe Him. Is he more like a Sovereign or more like a real Father?
2. What is the story - the beliefs, the assumptions, the purpose - that your people live out of? How do you explain what has happened to you? How do you make sense of the good and the bad?
3. What mechanisms are in place for you to convey your Promise and your God? How are you telling the next generation about them?

## Transformation Questions

1. What do you think God is saying to you?
2. What is keeping you from doing this?
3. If you were to do it, what might be a good first step?
4. Who will you tell? Or who will you ask to help you?

## Habit

Using the "Slave to Child Core Questions," discuss how you respond to each question. Ask others to help you. After discussing how you respond, the use the "Transformation Questions" above to explore what God might be teaching you and how you might respond.

## Quote

"Planting trees early in the spring,  
we make a place for birds to sing  
in time to come. How do we know?  
They are singing here now.  
There is no other guarantee  
That singing will ever be."

Wendell Berry  
"For the Future" *New Collected Poems*