

Investigating

God's Word...

Year One

Genesis 25-50, Job

Sunday School Curriculum

Winter Quarter

Lesson Sequence

Winter Quarter

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter.

The central goal of the *Investigating God's Word...* curriculum is to enable children the opportunity to read and study the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—by the time they “graduate” from 6th grade.

Week One	Genesis 25-26
Week Two	Genesis 27-28
Week Three	Genesis 29:1-31:21
Week Four	Genesis 31:22-33:20
Week Five	Genesis 34-36
Week Six	Genesis 37-38
Week Seven	Genesis 39-40
Week Eight	Genesis 41-42
Week Nine	Genesis 43-44
Week Ten	Genesis 45-46
Week Eleven	Genesis 47-48
Week Twelve	Genesis 49-50
Week Thirteen	Job

Spring Quarter: Matthew 1-14



Suggested Schedule

Welcome Families	2-3 min.
Drill Time <i>Abraham's sons</i>	3-5 min.
W.O.W! <i>Birthright</i>	3-5 min.
Historical Context <i>Timeline</i>	2-3 min.
Bible Investigation <i>Genesis 25-26</i>	20-30 min.
Lesson-At-Home <i>Colossians 1:15</i>	3-5 min.

Lesson One

Genesis 25-26

Overview

This quarter's lessons will take the children through the second half of the Book of Genesis, as well as the Book of Job. Genesis 25-50 will introduce your children to Isaac, Jacob and Esau, and Joseph and his brothers. The stories are rich and full, teaching us much about how God works in the lives of His people.

Genesis 25 begins with Abraham taking a new wife, Keturah, and having more children. Abraham dies, and passes on the blessings of God to Isaac. We get a glimpse of the contrast between the descendants of Ishmael and Isaac, including the conflict that continues today. The rest of the chapter introduces us to Esau and Jacob and their from-the-womb battle. The rivalry continues as Esau foolishly gives up his birthright to sly and manipulative Jacob. Even through this sinfulness, we see God's plan of Jacob becoming "firstborn" beginning to come to pass.

Chapter 26 will only be covered briefly in this lesson, simply to show how God blessed and protected Isaac, even though he sinned against God and his wife. God provides great wealth for Isaac and even gives him peace with his enemies.

Preparation

Read and meditate on Genesis 25-26 this week. **Use flannelgraph figures or other pictures to illustrate the lesson.**

Teaching Encouragement

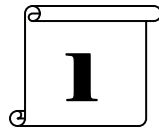
Firstborn children are not as highly valued today as they were in Bible times and in the ancient near-East. To many of us, the firstborn traditions just seem to smack of favoritism. Yet, the firstborn was set apart as special by God! Why? Not because the firstborn was anyone unique in and of himself, that's for sure. The blessing of the firstborn, as well as the dedication of the firstborn to God, was a *picture* of God's covenant love and a foreshadow of Christ. God the Father loves His firstborn, the Lord Jesus Christ, and blessed Him with the privilege to die for His people. This love for God's firstborn translates to love for all of the rest of His firstborn—all who are born again *in* Christ. Think about your status as firstborn as you prepare your lesson this week!

The **Welcome** serves as both an opportunity to greet the children as well as an effort to help them get focused.

Each week, you will begin with questions or an activity that will engage the children and help them think about God and His Word.

Drill Time gives the children the opportunity to recall and rehearse what they have been taught in the past—at home, school and/or church.

This element allows the **Investigating...** curriculum to cover much more Biblical “ground,” since time is not expended repeating the same Bible stories over and over again from year to year.



Welcome

Greet the students. Welcome visitors.

Say: *Who made you? [God.] That’s right! And, he put each one of you into families. Our families are great gifts from God. Who here is an oldest child in your family—a firstborn? **Have all firstborns stand up, then sit down.** Now, who here is the youngest in their family? **Have all youngest children stand up and sit down.** Who here is somewhere in between oldest and youngest? **Have them stand up and sit down.***

We will learn more about firstborns and families today!



Drill Time

But first, we will move on to DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review something we have learned in the past. Are you ready?

Today’s questions are about Abraham: *Who was Abraham’s firstborn son? What was the name of Abraham’s son that he had next—with his wife Sarah? Which one of these two sons was God’s chosen one?*

Ask for volunteers or call on students.

Answers:

1. Ishmael.
2. Isaac.
3. Isaac.

Last quarter, we learned a lot about Abraham. We ended with Abraham’s son, Isaac, getting married to Rebekah. Do you remember how gracious God was to Isaac by providing him with a wife?

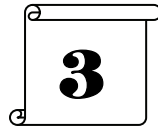
We will learn more about Abraham’s children and his children’s children in our lesson today. God continues to work out His wonderful love and mercy in the lives of the REAL people we read about in the Bible.

The **W.O.W!** is the **Word of the Week**.

This element is included to help the children build their theological and Biblical vocabularies. These words are vital to the Christian's understanding of God and His World.

Each week, the Bible Lesson will be placed in **historical context** by use of a timeline.

It is essential that the children learn how the story of redemptive history fits together. Bible stories must not be viewed as detached scenes—they are to be shown as part of a much bigger picture. The timeline is a useful tool toward that end.



W.O.W!

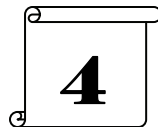
Remember that each week in this class, we learn a new word! I love learning new words, don't you? Let's learn another one now.

*Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) this week is **BIRTHRIGHT**. Write the word on the board.*

*I need all of my firstborns to stand up again. **Bring the firstborns to the front of the class.***

If these firstborns were born to families in Genesis-time, they would be entitled to the BIRTHRIGHT. A BIRTHRIGHT was certain rights and privileges given to each firstborn child. For example, the BIRTHRIGHT entitled the firstborn to a double portion of the family's money when the father died. The BIRTHRIGHT also meant that the firstborn was the leader of the family. And, the BIRTHRIGHT often came with a special blessing from the father!

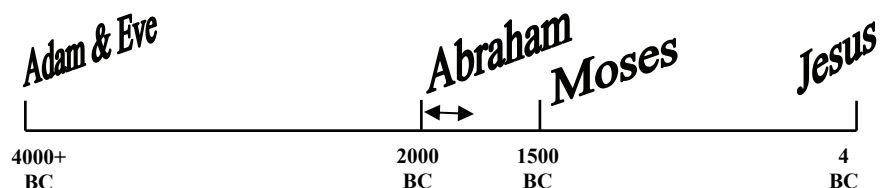
Have the children sit down. *We will read something very interesting about a person's BIRTHRIGHT today. Listen for the word when we read our Bible lesson.*

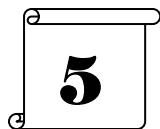


Historical Context

Put this timeline on the board so the children can get an idea of when these stories took place. Make sure you make it clear that these stories actually happened!

When Events in Genesis 25-26 Took Place





Bible Investigation

The **Bible Investigation** time is the heart and soul of the week's lesson. It plunges the student directly into God's Word, not simply a paraphrase of a Bible story.

All Scripture text included in the curriculum is from the New International Version (NIV).

The Bible reading is taken in short sections, separated by times of **discussion**, **questions**, and **application points**.

This format allows ample opportunities to stop, think about and discuss what is being read.

Have the children seated so they can see the board. Use flannelgraph figures or pictures to illustrate the lesson.

Introduction: *We are now in the middle of the Book of Genesis—the first book of the Bible. Remember that this Bible book is a “book of beginnings.” We are about to have another beginning here—the beginning of Isaac’s family. Let’s pay close attention so we can learn from God’s Word today.*

Read Genesis 25:1-5.

¹ Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. ² She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah. ³ Jokshan was the father of Sheba and Dedan; the descendants of Dedan were the Asshurites, the Letushites and the Leummites. ⁴ The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida and Eldaah. All these were descendants of Keturah. ⁵ Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac.

Discussion: *Remember that Sarah, Abraham’s first wife, had already died. With his new wife, Keturah, Abraham had many other children. Yet, who was the son that God chose to receive His blessing? [Isaac.]*

Let’s continue. Read verses 7-11.

⁷ Altogether, Abraham lived a hundred and seventy-five years. ⁸ Then Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and full of years; and he was gathered to his people. ⁹ His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah near Mamre, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite, ¹⁰ the field Abraham had bought from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried with his wife Sarah. ¹¹ After Abraham’s death, God blessed his son Isaac, who then lived near Beer Lahai Roi.

Discussion: *Abraham died, after living a full life of faith in God. How great it would be if all of you would live a full life of faith in God! And, which son did Abraham bless? [Isaac.] Isaac was chosen by God to continue the line of promise.*

Verses 12-18 tell us about Abraham’s son Ishmael and his children and grandchildren. Ishmael became a mighty nation which is still fighting against the children of Isaac. Remember that God’s covenant blessings were on Isaac, not Ishmael.

This grey sidebar found on all pages is for the teacher to write notes as he or she prepares the lesson.

Other teaching tips or important exegetical information will also appear on the sidebar from time to time.

*Let's pick up our reading in verse 19. **Read verses 19-21.***

¹⁹ This is the account of Abraham's son Isaac. Abraham became the father of Isaac, ²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹ Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant.

Discussion: *Wow, Isaac's wife had trouble getting pregnant just like Sarah! How did Isaac solve this problem? [He prayed to God.] Did God answer Isaac's prayer? [Yes!]*

Application: *What do you do when you have a problem? Do you pray about it? Abraham and Sarah tried to solve their problem on their own. Isaac and Rebekah prayed. I hope you will look to God for help as you grow older! Only God could give Isaac and Rebekah a child, since He is the author of life!*

*Let's read on. **Read verses 22-26.***

²² The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³ The LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger." ²⁴ When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. ²⁵ The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

Discussion: *Twins! What were their names? [Esau and Jacob.] Who was the firstborn? [Esau.] Yes, Esau was hairy and red. Who was the second-born? [Jacob.] Jacob's name means "deceiver." We'll learn more about that later. They were already fighting in their mother's womb. Isn't that funny? Who has the BIRTHRIGHT? [Esau.] Yet, the Bible says that the "older will serve the younger." I wonder what that means?*

*Let's continue. **Read verses 27-28.***

²⁷ The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents. ²⁸ Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Discussion: *These twins were very different, weren't they? Esau was an outdoor guy and Jacob was an indoor guy. Unfortunately,*

Application Points are woven into the fabric of the discussion, rather than being left to the end of the lesson.

daddy loved Esau and mommy loved Jacob more. This will probably cause a lot of trouble, don't you think?

Application: *It is very tempting to play favorites in families. God tells us that we are to love everyone in our families, not just the members we like the most—or who are most like us!*

Now, listen closely for our W.O.W! Read verses 29-34.

²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. ³⁰ He said to Jacob, “Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!” (That is why he was also called Edom.) ³¹ Jacob replied, “First sell me your birthright.” ³² “Look, I am about to die,” Esau said. “What good is the birthright to me?” ³³ But Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.

Discussion: *Did you hear our Word of the Week? What was Esau’s problem? [He was starving—seemingly to death!] Did Jacob take advantage of his brother’s condition? [Yes.] And, Esau foolishly sold Jacob—his younger brother—his BIRTHRIGHT. This shows that Esau didn’t care about being the firstborn and truly leading his family. Now, Jacob will receive the status of “firstborn” even though he was second-born. More trouble is coming between these twins, that’s for sure.*

Application: *God expects us to treat our brothers and sisters with love and respect. Jacob manipulated his brother. Esau was very foolish. It is so important that you learn to love your family members, since God has given them to you!*

We will get back to Jacob and Esau next week. Now, we need to read more about their father Isaac, God’s chosen one.

Read Genesis 26:1-6.

¹ Now there was a famine in the land—besides the earlier famine of Abraham’s time—and Isaac went to Abimelech 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 all nations on earth will be blessed, ⁵ because Abraham obeyed me and kept my

requirements, my commands, my decrees and my laws.”⁶ So Isaac stayed in Gerar.

Discussion: *Did you hear how God was protecting and providing for Isaac? He kept Isaac and his family fed through the famine. He kept him out of Egypt, which would have been trouble. And, God promised to give Isaac numerous children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren, just as He promised Abraham. Does God always keep His promises? [Yes.] What must Isaac do now? [Obey all of God’s commandments.]*

Application: *God abundantly blesses you and me too. We are then responsible to follow God all of our lives.*

Summary: *Unfortunately, Isaac disobeys God and does something foolish. He lies about his wife to King Abimelech—out of fear for his life. God got him out of trouble and protected him (verses 7-11). God blessed Isaac so much that he had become rich—with lots of herds and servants. God also protected Isaac from jealous people who fought with him over land and wells (verses 12-23).*

Let’s continue in verse 24. Read verses 24-25.

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.”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.

Discussion: *Wow! The LORD appeared to Isaac! What did God promise Isaac? [The He would bless Isaac and increase the numbers of his descendants.] Did you hear what Isaac did in response? He built an altar and worshipped God. That is the right response to God’s grace!*

Isaac then made a peace treaty with King Abimelech and his men, because they realized that Isaac was blessed by God. Listen to these last two verses...

Read verses 32-33.

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, and to this day the name of the town has been Beersheba.

Conclusion: *God continues to bless Isaac. We will read more about Isaac, Jacob and Esau next week.*

Make sure your lesson concludes by pointing to the firstborn of all creation—Jesus Christ—and His BIRTHRIGHT. The “Lesson-At-Home” section draws this out.



Lesson-At-Home

The **Lesson-At-Home** section is the closing time each week. Bookmarks are given to the students that include the Scripture memory verse and a lesson review. The lesson review contains words and phrases that can spark memories as well as conversation with parents.

Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Colossians 1:15) to the children.

Colossians 1:15 (NIV)

¹⁵ [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Say: *We learned that Esau was the firstborn son who gave away his BIRTHRIGHT for a pot of soup. This Bible verse tells us that Jesus Christ is the FIRSTBORN over ALL creation. That means that Jesus has the rights and privilege of the BIRTHRIGHT. His blessing from God was that He could die for God’s people and make them all firstborn children. Jesus, as the firstborn, is the ruler of His family, the people of God!*

Review the verse a couple of times.

Direct the students’ attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today’s lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.

Close in prayer and dismiss the students.