

Discussion / Reflection Guide -- “Punish and Reward”
Week of February 4, 2018

Read Genesis 26:1-5; Matthew 5:45; John 9:1-3

- Both Isaac and Abraham had to endure times of famine in spite of their faith. The famine was not a result of any “sins” in their lives or anything bad they had done.
- Have you ever gone through literal or figurative times of “famine” in your life? Were you tempted to think that God might have been punishing you?
- It is natural to assume bad things in a person’s life are some kind of punishment – E.G.: John 9:1-2. What did Jesus say? See Matthew 5:45; John 9:3. God isn’t necessarily punishing you when things go bad. Is that encouraging?
- God’s blessings came to Isaac in the midst of a storm. Don’t give up when you experience life’s storms. God’s blessings may be just around the corner!
- Why did God bless Isaac? Was it because of anything he had done? See Genesis 26:5.
- Is it really possible that God might bless our family because of our faith / obedience? Have you received any blessings as a result of the faith / obedience of others?
- Even if you have not been a blessing to your family up to this point in your life, you can change that. You can repent, start over and chart a new course for your life. Make the decision to be faithful and obedient to God. Maybe God will bless your family as a result.
- What changes do you need to make in order to be a blessing to those who come along after you?