



LESSON TITLE: ENCOUNTERS AT THE WELL

**Life in the Word Series:
Digging Deeper
(Reclaiming Our Spiritual Wells)**

Lesson One: Encounters at the Well

Foundation Scripture

John 4:14, “But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

Key Scripture

Genesis 26:12-25

Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the Lord blessed him. The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy. He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him.

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. Then Abimelech said to Isaac, "Move away from us; you have become too powerful for us." So, Isaac moved away from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar, where he settled.

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. Isaac's servants dug in the valley and discovered a well of fresh water there. But the herders of Gerar quarreled with those of Isaac and said,

“The water is ours!” So, he named the well Esek, because they disputed with him. Then they dug another well, but they quarreled over that one also; so, he named it Sitnah. He moved on from there and dug another well, and no one quarreled over it. He named it Rehoboth, saying, “Now the Lord has given us room and we will flourish in the land.” From there he went up to Beersheba.

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.” 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.

The Importance of Wells

Lesson One:

Encounters at the Well

1. Hagar's Encounter at the Well of Beer Lahai Roi

The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And he said, “Hagar, slave-girl of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?” She said, “I am running away from my mistress Sarai.”

Genesis 16:7-9, 13, The angel of the LORD said to her, “Return to your mistress, and submit to her.”

**Genesis 16:7-9, 13 So, she
named the LORD who spoke to
her, “You are El-roi”; for she said,
“Have I really seen God and
remained alive after seeing Him?**

1. God Sees Us.

You are not invisible to Him.

2. Rebekah's Encounter at the Well of Haran

Then the servant left, taking with him ten of his master's camels loaded with all kinds of good things from his master. He set out for Aram Nahar-aim and made his way to the town of Nahor. He had the camels kneel near the well outside the town; it was toward evening, the time the women go out to draw water.

Then he prayed, “LORD, God of my master Abraham, make me successful today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. May it be that when I say to a young woman,

‘Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,’ and she says, ‘Drink, and I’ll water your camels too’—let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master.”

2. God Answers Us.

**When you pray, be definite,
simple, and precise.**

If we spend minutes praying for something, let's spend minutes thanking God when He answers.

3. Jacob Encounter at the Well of Sychar

While he was still talking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherd. When Jacob saw Rachel, daughter of his uncle Laban, and Laban's sheep, he went over and rolled the stone away from the mouth of the well and watered his uncle's sheep.

Genesis 29:9-12, Then Jacob kissed Rachel and began to weep aloud. He had told Rachel that he was a relative of her father and a son of Rebekah. So, she ran and told her father.

3. God Shapes Us.

**God graciously uses
circumstances, consequences,
and difficult people, over time, to
shape us.**

**Things don't just happen to you.
God arranges your
circumstances to shape you into
the image of Jesus Christ.**

4. David's Encounter at the Well of Bethlehem

Then three of the thirty leaders went down to David during the gathering time to the cave of Adullam. The Philistine army was staying in the valley of Rephaim. David was in a strong place, while the Philistine soldiers were in Bethlehem.

David had a desire and said, “If only someone would give me water to drink from the well by the gate of Bethlehem!” So, the three strong men broke through the Philistine army and took water from the well by the gate of Bethlehem. They brought it to David. But David would not drink it.

II Samuel 23:13-17, He poured it out to the Lord, and said, “O Lord, far be it from me to do this. Should I drink the blood of the men who went and put their lives in danger?” So, he would not drink it. The three strong men did these things.

4. God Values Us.

We are His prized possession.

Romans 12:1, I therefore urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercies, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices that are holy and pleasing to God, for this is the reasonable way for you to worship.

WE CAN OFFER:

Ourselves

Our bodies

Our lives

Everything we have and are.

**“God honors the cost of your
sacrifice because He
sacrificed His own Son.”**

“We cannot present our lives to God as a living sacrifice and be selfish at the same time.”

Follow Up Chat Questions:

- 1. What comes to mind when you think of a well?**
- 2. Why were wells of great importance particularly in the Old Testament?**
- 3. Why did the Philistines clog Isaac's wells?**
- 4. Name the four wells mentioned in today's study. What did we learn from each encounter?**
- 5. Why did David refuse to drink the water retrieved by the three strong men?**
- 6. In what way is David's refusal to drink related to our worship mentioned in Roman 12:1?**
- 7. What is one thing you expect to learn from this series?**