

# LIFE LESSONS – Making it Live

David Welsh |“What Will You Leave Behind?” | Genesis 23 & 25 | March 5 & 6, 2011

## Fears and Tests

**What are some of the fears and tests that you might be concerned about in your walk of faith with the Lord?** As Pastor David has been sharing about the life of Abraham and God testing him by asking him to sacrifice his son Isaac we are faced with the question...“What kind of tests will God put me through?” Discuss some things that can be stumbling blocks to prevent us from living a life of faith. The statement was made that **“When He is first in your life, everything else falls into place. Faith does not demand explanations. Faith rests on promises; and God never breaks a promise.”** Share how this kind of faith could change the way you live.

## Grieving

**What kinds of thoughts come to your mind as you think about the words “death” and “grieving?”** Grieving is one of God’s gifts to help heal broken hearts when people are taken from us in death. Death and grieving are not topics that are politically correct in our American culture. Share some of the ways our society seeks to deny the reality and finality of death. Discuss what you learned from your parents and family during your early years of life. Has that changed much since? If so, in what ways? Discuss why our culture makes it so difficult for us talk about death and dying. What are many of the prevailing themes of the media in our day regarding death and grieving? What is a healthy and Biblical view of death and dying??”

## Believers and Unbelievers

**How should Christians grieve for the deaths of unbelievers and for believers?** The grief of a believer should be very different from that of an unbeliever because of Jesus Christ! Let’s get some scriptural perspective on the Biblical view of death. Read I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and then continue in Chapter 5:1-11. Paul says that we are to comfort and encourage one another with these words and to build up one another! Can you think of some other scriptures that give us a healthy perspective on the purpose of life and of death? What is the difference between a believer’s death and one who is an unbeliever? Discuss the statement “If you are born only once you will die twice, but if you are born twice you will die only once!”

## Witness

**What are some of the challenges to being a “good witness” in your neighborhood or work “culture” where you presently reside?** Even though this world is not our home, we must be careful to possess a good witness to those who are outside the faith. God used Abraham’s life as a powerful witness of the faith of a man and his gracious God! What are some of the indications of the kind of witness that Abraham had on the Hittites? What affect do you think this may have had on them? Share some of the things that you can find in the Bible about what it means to be a “good witness.” Discuss some goals that the Lord would have for you and your family in this area of being a “good witness” Share some practical steps you can take.

## Faithfulness

**What kind of legacy might result from following God’s plan for our spiritual walk during our life?** Abraham wasn’t perfect, but to impact those around him, he didn’t have to be. He just needed to be faithful. Let’s review the “faith chapter”, Hebrews 11! What does it say faith is in verse 1? What does that mean in our lives today? Verses 2 and 3 give more depth to the first verse. Now read the rest of the chapter about the men and women who demonstrated great faith. When will this promise be fulfilled (verse 40)? Now go ahead and read the first three verse of chapter 12. What promises has the Lord made to us? He will be faithful to His promises! For more encouragement go to Romans 8 which talks about the power of God’s sanctification on our lives; verses 8:1-11 “Emancipated living”, 8:12-17 “Exalted living”, 8:18-30 “Expectant living”, and 8:31-39 “Exultant living!” God’s plans are simply AMAZING!

*Written by Ross Lamp*