
Fathom Church exists to see people GO DEEPER with God. This study guide should be used the week preceding the sermon it supplements. It is primarily intended to be used in a Fathom Church Discipleship Group. For more information about Fathom Discipleship Groups please visit <http://fathomchurch.org/groups/>

MAIN TEXT: Genesis 23

OBSERVATION: *What is this text saying?*

- How many years did she have to be the mother of Isaac?
- What two things did Abraham do in responses to the death of Sarah?
- How much did the burial site cost and what came with it?

INTERPRETATION: *What does this text mean?*

- There is very little here about the mourning and weeping of Abraham for Sarah, in fact it seems to go very quickly. What can we learn from Abraham in actions surrounding the death of his wife?
- Abraham states that he is a sojourner and a foreigner in the land and has to ask for a place to bury his wife. Part of God's promise is a promised land; this may seem like an unfulfilled promise of God to Abraham. Does Abraham seem to trust God more now or is he trying to accomplish God's will on his own by purchasing land in Canaan?

APPLICATION: *How should we now live?*

- Abraham goes through a long process to purchase a good burial place for his beloved wife. The amount of money does not matter to him and he negotiates honestly with the people who own the land where he will bury his wife. She is buried in Canaan; part of the promised land that Israel will receive as part of God's promise. This is the first step in that promise. Often it may feel like God is not working fast enough in our lives to achieve what we feel is Godly and right. Abraham, as he gets older starts to understand that life is about fulfilling the purposes of God which may not have our time frame in mind. Do we have a view of the future to do Godly work that will honor God in his time or are we demanding his promises be fulfilled in our time?

