Introduction: Engage your group members in review prior to presenting new information.

Ask the following questions:

- Who is the main character in these previous events? (Wait for it…Most folks are going to say Abraham. But more than one will reply God.)
- Who set Abram in motion?
- Who brought the unexpected child?
- Who provided the sacrifice?

This perspective gets your group members ready to view God’s graciousness despite our unworthiness.

Part 1: Assist with historical-cultural context.

The “Further Commentary” on page 108 of the Leader Guide is very important for understanding Genesis 25:19-26.

I am a twin. So, as I read the prophecy of the upcoming events, I find it peculiar, if not troubling. But looking at this passage through its cultural lens, it is even more bizarre.

You might have a group member who is aware of the cultural background, so allow him/her to express his/her insights.

Part 2: Use testimonies to identify with the passage.

Few folks would recognize the name of the region in which Isaac settled. And not everyone gets the pressures and conflicts about staying there as opposed to moving on to Egypt. Clarify this for your group using the commentary on page 109. Then ask the following:

When in your life has the Lord assigned you to stay in Gerar—a place or assignment that is counter-intuitive for any sane person?
Allow time for testimonies from at least a few people.

**Part 3: Challenge to encourage faith in God’s promises.**

As you read this passage aloud, ask group members to recall the promises found in Scripture that they have claimed in the past.

Ask, “Have you stopped believing them? Do you need to hear them again—just as God updates His promises to Jacob in this passage? Is it time to make a fresh commitment as Jacob does in verses 20-22?”

**Teaching Tip of the Week**

Carefully crafted lessons include a clarification of important aspects of historical or cultural nature, an intentional emphasis on the main points to be learned from the focal passage, and moments near the end of the lesson for conviction, challenge, and application.

[These are five of the seven lesson components discussed in this resource: Ken Coley, “Excels in Teaching God’s Word,” in *Sunday School That Really Excels*, ed. Steve R. Parr (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2013), 179-188.]