



**GENESIS**  
*Grace from the Beginning*

**16/17 June 2018**  
Vol. 40, No. 23

## An Imperfect Father With a Perfect Father

*Genesis 25:1-18*

### English Services

(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude  
Call to Worship  
Worship through Praise  
Worship through Fellowship  
Worship through Giving  
Testimony  
Scripture Reading  
Worship in the Word  
*Pastor Larry Pabiona*  
Appreciation of Fathers  
Benediction

### Filipino Service

(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda  
Tawag sa Pagsamba  
Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan  
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita  
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay  
Patotoo  
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos  
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos  
Pagkilala sa Mga Tatay  
Pangwakas na Panalangin  
at Basbas

See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.



# An Imperfect Father With a Perfect Father

Today's Message (16/17 June 2018) /  
*Genesis 25:1-18*

IF THERE WAS  
HOPE FOR AN  
IMPERFECT  
FATHER,  
ABRAHAM,  
THERE'S HOPE  
FOR US TOO. WE  
HAVE A PERFECT  
FATHER.

As we greet all dads today, this is what the Bible has to say that gives us fathers much hope, after all the victories and failures this similarly imperfect dad went through: "And the Scripture was fulfilled that says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness', and he was called a friend of God" (*James 2:23, ESV*).

In a time when Hollywood and TV give us the picture of the impossibly ideal father who always reads stories to his kids at night, always plays ball with his son and counsels his daughters perfectly, we are often tempted to think we don't measure up. Take heart. Our message title summarizes neatly the life of Abraham: an imperfect father with a perfect Father. He wasn't just the imperfect father of eight, but an imperfect father of our faith. But God is more faithful than all his children's failures. See how this plays out as we summarize the life of Abraham at his funeral:

1. A P \_\_\_\_\_ OF C \_\_\_\_\_  
I \_\_\_\_\_: ABRAHAM GETS A  
CONCUBINE BEFORE SARAH DIES (vv.  
1-4)

- Keturah gave birth to the nations that would later be troublesome to Israel.
- In any day and age, polygamy has never worked. God's pattern of one wife for one man was demonstrated with Adam and Eve, and reinforced in his requirement for leaders (and Christ-followers) in 1 Timothy 3:2.

2. A P \_\_\_\_\_ OF C \_\_\_\_\_  
I \_\_\_\_\_: ABRAHAM BLESSES HIS  
SONS, AS GOD BLESSES ISAAC (vv. 5-11)

- a. Abraham blesses all his children materially, but God blesses Isaac above them all, just as He promised.

## Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6 p.m.)

Prelude  
Call to Worship  
Worship through Praise  
Worship through Fellowship  
Worship through Giving  
Testimony  
Doxology  
Scripture Reading  
Worship in the Word  
Appreciation of Fathers  
Benediction



# An Imperfect Father With a Perfect Father

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b. Abraham's sons reunite at his tomb.

- Abraham's obituary is well said in Genesis 25:8 (NASB): "Abraham breathed his last and died in a ripe old age, **an old man and satisfied with life.**" This is the same person of whom Genesis 24:1 says, "God had blessed him in every way." What an ending for an imperfect father! After all is said and done, what matters most to God is that we rise where we fall and continue to walk in faith.
- This is the same Abraham of whom Hebrews 11:16 says, "But...they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God." God has nothing negative to say of him, only good. This is how every believer ultimately stands before God.

3. A P \_\_\_\_\_ OF C \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_: ISHMAEL  
FULFILLS THE BLESSINGS PROMISED TO HAGAR

- God kept His word to Hagar, but the world reaps the consequences of Abraham's actions until today. Ishmael's children still live in hostility to those in proximity to them. There are no winners in the Israeli-Arab-Palestinian conflict today, and there are no innocent participants in it either.
- God may forgive our sins, but be aware that the consequences may long outlive us. Let that keep us from even thinking about it, much more think that we will get away with it. We never do.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Fellow dads, do you sometimes ask yourselves how well you've done as a father? I often do. But there are things we could have said or done, or things we shouldn't have said or done, yet the past is something we cannot redo. Take heart. If there was hope for an imperfect father, Abraham, there's hope for us too. We have a perfect Father. It is His faithfulness to His very own that carries us through. So let us rejoice with Abraham's victories and pray to become like him, a friend of God. Mourn and be wisened about his failures and pray that we learn from them enough to avoid the same route.

God is faithful, and those who put their trust in him and faithfully walk with Him through suffering and trials, and gratefully acknowledge Him in their victories and blessings, will find themselves looking back at their own lives, satisfied (*Genesis 25:8*). And hopefully like Abraham, an imperfect dad could be counted a friend of God (*James 2:23*) ■

## LIFE AT 40: FRIENDSHIP IN THE MISSION OF GOD

*God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.*—2 Corinthians 5:19

Today, there seems to be less and less interest in Christianity, if not a growing hostility toward it. Never has it been more critical to be reminded of the value of authentic friendships in our collective and individual witness as followers of Christ than it is in our time.

### 2018 Missions Month Sermons

**Friends of God: God's Global Offer of Friendship, July 7 and 8**

**Friends Doing the Master's Work: Friendship and Discipleship in the Gospel of John, July 14 and 15**

**Friends and Partners on Mission with God: Cross-cultural Friendships in Church History, July 21 and 22**

**Friends as Hosts and Guests: Hospitality in the Mission of God, July 28 and 29**

This coming July, our Missions Emphasis month, we have the opportunity to learn and sharpen our understanding of the mission field as we engage or participate in the Mission of God. Our sermons and workshops will focus on different standpoints of friendship—from having a global perspective to the seeing through specifics like welcoming migrants in our midst. We will be hearing stories from seasoned men and women who have used friendship to further

God's kingdom. How do you develop partners in the ministry? How do you reach the world at your doorstep? Do we have opportunities to minister to the families of Overseas Filipino Workers? How about relating to those hostile to our faith in the metropolis? Through the workshop topics that will be offered throughout July, we hope we can answer some of these questions or start meaningful conversations.

On July 1, will be releasing our annual Missions Primer and it will contain forty personal stories from our missionaries. It is our hope that even without seeing them regularly, we can get to know them a little more and pave the way for you to personally reach out to them. We pray that we can fulfill the mission of God through the friendships we develop—with those in the field and with those at home.

### Featured Activities and Workshops

July 7	Friendship and Partnership Development
July 14	Church Mobilization
July 21	Reaching the World Through Prayer
July 22	OFW Families Fellowship
July 28	Ministering to the Unreached Peoples in Metro Manila
August 4	Loving Our Neighbor Through Creation Care

*For more information regarding these activities, you may contact me at 0932 371 3457 ■*



# Ablaze Devotional

**I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him., "I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants." While he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.—Luke 15:18-20**

Jesus's legitimacy as a teacher was being questioned by the religious leaders and scholars for welcoming and eating with men and women of doubtful reputation. This made Jesus give parables of what His motivations were for doing so. Jesus made it clear that the God He speaks of is a God of compassion who joyously welcomes sinners to His table.

Being both the Son of God and Son of Man, Jesus has shown us what it looks like to have God as a father. Jesus's life radiated the very face of God Himself. By welcoming and spending time with those whom society rejected, Jesus has shown the extent of the Father's love.

Perhaps we are familiar with the story of the Prodigal son. Maybe we are used to identifying ourselves with the younger son who rebelled and lived a life of squanderer, or with the elder brother who grumbled about his father's actions towards the younger son. It's easier to identify with the two brothers, but the center of this parable is the father himself. It both poses an invitation and a challenge for us who hear to grow in our sonship to be able to love just as the father showed his love to his sons. Our calling as His disciples has always been to be perfect in love just as the Father is.

Today, we honor all the fathers, not just the fathers of our kin, but also those who became father figures in our existential and spiritual journey. They are those whom God sent to cultivate life in us, to inspire us, to motivate us to be more like the person God created us to be. May their lives serve as echoes of Christ's invitation for us to show the joyous compassion of our Heavenly Father ■

## GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS AT THE CHAPEL:

**The GCF Hour of Prayer**  
*Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.*

**Midweek Prayer Service**  
*Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.*

## Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements



### HARVEST-WETFOOT BAZĀRU

*In support of Harvest STM to Japan*  
June 16 & 17 (Sat-Sun) at the Fellowship Hall  
Come and discover great finds at low, low prices.  
For more info, please visit their booth at the lobby or talk to Harvest members at the bazaar.



### BEAUTY FROM ASHES

*S.H.E. Fellowship, a ministry for God's single women*  
June 30 (Sat), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Auditorium B  
All single women and single moms are invited  
Contact **0917 532 7725** to register/for more info  
Registration is **free**



### CAMP LIVE: VERIFIED

*Youth camp for college students*  
July 19-22 (Thu-Sun) at Batangas Country Club  
For more details/to register, please visit the Youth L.I.V.E. Camp booth at the G/F lobby.



### EVERY DAY A NEW PAGE

*Mugs 'N Muffins with Rica Peralejo-Bonifacio*  
July 21 (Sat), 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at Auditorium B  
Open to **all women** aged 18 and above  
Contact **0917 532 7725** to register/for more info

### STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

*June 2018*

	June Budget	Received, June 1-13
General	7,923,567	3,238,985
Missions	927,000	193,650
	Jan. - June Budget	Received, Jan. - June
General	53,877,211	41,063,722
Missions	5,562,000	5,870,691

### Flower Ministry

*The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to our God for His grace and mercy by the Basild family, the Valera family, the Messiah College and by an anonymous donor.*

Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.



## Learning to love as a new father

by Pastor Mark del Rosario

The Lord's Prayer starts with calling on the Lord as "Our Father." As a pastor, I gave many sermons on this passage and even led my Growth Group through it, explaining how God being our Father shows the relationship we have with Him. Yet, when I became a father myself back in September 25, 2017, understanding the love of a father took on new meaning. I was no longer just a husband, I was now a father.

Loving as a father means loving through the highs and lows, even when your baby cannot communicate their love back to you. It means getting pooped on, spit up on, and peed on to be followed by crying. And yet, as a father, you can't describe how much you still love her. The cute smiles and the adorable pictures are the extra. You inexplicably love your baby not because of anything they do, but because they are your child.

I look at Maddie and I know I love her and that will never change. She will always be Kris Ann's and my daughter, no matter how old she gets or what she does. We love her because of who we are and who she is, not what she does.

God loves us His children that way too. We will always be His. And He will love us always because of who He is, not what we do. And He calls us to extend the same "fatherly," unconditional love towards our brothers, that the world may know that we are His children ■

**ON THE COVER:** *The Departure of Abraham for Canaan* (1850) by Hungarian painter József Molnár (Wikimedia, public domain). That Abraham "died in a ripe old age, an old man and satisfied with life" testifies to the faithfulness of God, which unfolded in his life from the moment he obeyed God's call for him to leave his homeland.

Join a

## DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

### Pass by the GGEX (Growth Group Express)!

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room B124

Get a feel of what a Growth Group is like before you participate in one. Come and join us!

### Life in Technicolor Support Group for cancer patients

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

12:00-3:00 p.m. at the Seniors' Room

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

**8 a.m.:** Ages 1-3, B415; Ages 4-5, B410; Age 6, B414; Age 7, B403; Age 8, B413, Ages 9-10, B411; Ages 11-12, B409; Transition Age 13, B406

**10:30 a.m.:** Ages 1-2, B412; Age 3, B415; Age 4, B408; Age 5, B410; Age 6A, B402; Age 6B, B403; Age 7, B401; Age 8, B413; Age 9, B411; Age 10, B414; Age 11, B409; Age 12, B405; Transition Age 13, B406

**3 p.m.:** Ages 1-5, B415; Ages 6-9, B402; Ages 10-12, B403

**5:30 p.m.:** Ages 1-5, B415; Age 6, B402; Ages 7-9, B401; Ages 10-12, B403; Transition Age 13, B404

**Nursery:** 2<sup>nd</sup> flr. for nursing moms and babies aged one week to 11 months old

**Yayas:** 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., B404

**Sunday School Parents' Class:**  
9:30 a.m., B406

*If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form inside this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag or submit it to the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 7740.*

### 2<sup>nd</sup> GG Leaders' Assembly

*Topic: How to Start a New Small Group*  
June 30 (Sat.), 3-5 p.m., Fellowship Hall



## Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357

Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

# How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- ☐ I am a first-time guest.
- ☐ I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- ☐ I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- ☐ I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- ☐ **I want to join a Growth Group.**  
(Specify age group: \_\_\_\_\_)  
(Specify group composition: \_\_\_\_\_)
- ☐ I want to start a Growth Group.
- ☐ I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_ Landline no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): \_\_\_\_\_

*Today is **16/17 June 2018**, and I attended the*  
8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m.  
or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

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For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.

# God's Way to Heaven

## THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."  
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

## THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

**God is holy and righteous:** "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isaiah 6:3). **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).

## THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

**Man is sinful:** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).  
**Sin demands a penalty:** "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

## THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

**Christ is the expression of God's love for us:** "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (2 Corinthians 5:18).

## WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

**Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior:** "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

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**PRAYER:** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.

## Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.