



Grace Assembly Of God

## Chapter-By-Chapter Bible Reading Devotional

Scripture:	<b>Genesis 23</b>	Title:	<b>"A lack of faith or an act of faith?"</b>
Author:	<b>Ps Joey Asher Tan</b>		
Summary of Chapter:	Genesis 23 is about two things: the death of Abraham's wife Sarah, and Abraham's detailed negotiation with Ephron for Sarah's burial cave in Machpelah. Abraham knew that the land belonged to him and until that time those in temporary possession of it meant little to him.		
<b>Key Verses</b>	<b>How does it speak to me?</b>		
<sup>9</sup> "... I will pay the full price in the presence of witnesses, so I will have a permanent burial place for my family."	<p>In 20 verses, only the first two address Abraham's emotional response to Sarah's passing (though he was absent when she died!) and the remaining 18 detail plans about how he purchased a cave to bury her. It was so detailed even the field and trees were thrown into the final proposal (v17). Now, don't miss this. Abraham was ahead of his time; he wasn't just negotiating a burial plot for his wife, for also for himself and his descendants. So why did he buy land that God has already promised?</p> <p>I can relate to him! You see, my wife (then-girlfriend) and I waited a long time for our built-to-order HDB flat. We applied for it in 2009 and only moved into it in 2015. I remember the time and energy invested into prayer drives and prayer walks, and the time and money spent on renovations. We <b>knew</b> the flat was ours but it was only when we invested prayers, time and money into it that it <b>felt</b> like it was truly ours. I think that's exactly what Abraham did. He <b>knew</b> that Canaan was his so it was no issue to him at all to invest into what was <b>already</b> his.</p> <p>I submit this to you – what we perceive as a lack of faith by Abraham was actually his act of faith! Abraham had so much faith he was staking a claim in what was promised to him <i>before</i> it was actually given to him. Now, in the context of the eternal life God has already promised us, how willing are we to pay the full price to "stake a claim" into it by investing in it?</p>		
<b>APPLICATION QUESTIONS:</b>			
<b>Adult:</b>	If you're going to spend a lifetime in heaven with God, what are you doing in your lifetime on earth to prepare yourself for it? What are your earthly investments for your eternity? What will others say about your faith if they scrutinise how you invest your time and money?		
<b>Youth:</b>	Are you succeeding at things in life that don't really matter? What are you successful at right now? Does it really matter in view of eternity? What are you currently wasting too much time, money and energy currently? How can you redeem time and make the May holidays count?		
<b>Child:</b>	Do you think it is important to have a relationship with God? If you could put that relationship with God into a treasure chest together with all the other things you love, what would they be?		
<b>PRAYER:</b>			
<b>Praying Scripture:</b>	God, thank You for inviting us to claim Your promises by how we make decisions, live and act. Help us to invest wisely in this lifetime for the lifetime to come. Stop us from succeeding at things in life that don't really matter. In Jesus' name, amen!		
<b>Thanksgiving Prayer:</b>	I/We thank you for _____ (e.g. delicious food they ate, places they went, prayer that is answered, etc)		
<b>Intercessory Prayer:</b>	I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)		
<b>Salvation Prayer:</b>	I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (can add one name per day). In Jesus Name I/we pray. Amen.		

