

<p>A</p>	<p><u>“Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening”</u> (Introduction of related scriptural passages)</p>	<p>1Sam 3:9 Gen 24-28</p>
<p>B</p>	<p><u>A Reflection of Abraham’s Experience</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This is the first narrative that depicts an intimate relationship between God and humanity. It also reveals God’s patience in converting an ordinary man. This is a story to which you and I can easily relate. ▪ God asked Abraham to sacrifice the most important thing in his life, Isaac. This is done only to reveal God’s mercy and compassion for Abraham because one must give up life to gain life! ▪ All the blessings God bestowed on the world come from God’s Covenant with Abraham. Therefore, it is not surprising that Mary attributes her blessing (her son, the Son of God) to Abraham’s blessing. ▪ The story of Abraham is the story of everyone who follows God. Just as God seeks out and leads Abraham, He seeks us out individually with patience and leads us to Him. He raises us up to perfection. Why would some people still claim that the God of love only appears in the New Testament? 	<p>HA p 72 Rm 6:8 Gen 22:1-15 Lk 1:55</p>
<p>C</p>	<p><u>The Marriage of Isaac</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Laban, the eldest son in the family, is responsible for his sister, Rebekah’s marriage. The importance of the first-born son is alluded to in numerous scripture passages (the 10th plague that kills the first born; the eldest to receive blessing; Jacob steals his older brother’s title; the first born to be offered to God). This reinforces the motif of “the two brothers” in scripture, that is, “the elder must serve the younger” (Gen 25:23). ▪ One must understand this motif and plot in scripture actually points to the new Adam – Jesus – the ultimate and most important first born. Those who fail to understand this may also misunderstand the expression of “firstborn son” in Luke as an indication of Mary giving birth to other children after Jesus. 	<p>Gen 24</p>
<p>D</p>	<p><u>Isaac & Ishmael Buried Abraham</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The two great nations are originally brothers, God wills us to cooperate with Him and treat each other with the same brotherly/sisterly love, so the Kingdom of God may begin on earth – thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. The hatred in today’s Middle East is the fruit of people’s blindness to their own sins and actions according to their own will instead of 	<p>Gen 25:1-11</p>

	<p>God's. Throughout history, humanity continues to abandon God for the same reason which also results in bad fruits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adam and Eve's mistakes; Abraham's relationship with Hagar; the Israelites who decided to abandon God and established their own kingdom; the crucifixion of Jesus; or the two major schisms of the Church – God's might and wisdom always manage to turn evil around and bring out the goodness in all things regardless of the severity of the disasters brought on by human action. As such, this free and "journeying" world is led to the final perfection; a world that is filled with brotherly and sisterly love. 	<p>CCC 310-311</p>
<p>E</p>	<p><u>Jacob and Esau</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "Two nations are in your womb": Israel and Edom, and "a star shall come out of Jacob". ▪ Jacob – "one who holds other's ligament" – refuses to rely on God but on his own power. ▪ Esau – he gives up his birthright for pleasures (hunting, lentil). He only cares about the present. He marries a Gentile woman who worships false gods. Therefore, he has deeply hurt his parents. ▪ God has chosen Jacob – someone who is unworthy in behavior and position – to build the Chosen People Israel. This shows that grace does not rely on one's effort but lies in the compassion of God. 	<p>Gen 25:19-34, 26 Num 24:17, Mt 2:2 HA p 154 HA p 154-155 HA p 155 Rm 9:10-16</p>
<p>F</p>	<p><u>Jacob's Deceit in Obtaining his Father's Blessing and the Ladder</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The power of blessing: according to the ancient Hebrew culture, words have unimaginable power; their power extends to future generations and surpasses the speaker and the written record. This explains the resilience and power of God's words. ▪ "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?" This indicates that Esau cares too much about things of the earth and believes that he is also entitled to the joy of Heaven. ▪ God disapproves of Rebekah's action; but He can fulfill what Rebekah starts without deceit. ▪ Jacob's ladder prefigures Jesus as the Mediator between Heaven and earth. 	<p>Gen 27, 28 NJBC 77:41-42 HA p 80 St. Louis De Montfort, True devotion to the Blessed Virgin, #184 HA p 155 HA p 81</p>