

Digging Wells

Why We Do What We Do

A Twelve-Week Study · Sundays · May 17 – August 2, 2026

Course Description

Water determined where people could live. The ancient Near East was largely arid, and rainfall was seasonal and unreliable. A reliable water source meant a family could keep flocks alive, grow crops, and stay in one place long enough to build something lasting. Where there was a well, there could be a household. Where there was no well, there was no future.

This is why Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob spent so much energy digging wells and defending them. In Genesis 26, Isaac re-digs the wells his father Abraham had dug, which the Philistines had filled in. That fight over wells was not randomness; it was a fight over the right to exist in the land. Filling in a well was an act of war. Owning a well was a claim of inheritance.

Our practices are wells. They were dug at cost by men who came before us, and each one was placed for a reason. Over time, wells get stopped up — by neglect, by drift, by enemies of the work, or simply by a generation that forgot why they were dug. This course principally teaches the “why” (why we do what we do). Each Sunday we will examine one of the major practices of our church and answer four questions: What well does this represent? Why was it dug? What does it produce when it flows? And what threatens to fill it in?

The aim is inheritance — to understand the well, to keep it unstopped, to do the things we are supposed to be doing, and to pass it on to the next generation. What we do is not random. It is a claim on the land.

Course Objectives

- › Identify the purpose behind each major practice of our church.
- › Recognize how wells get stopped up — by neglect, drift, opposition, or forgetfulness.
- › How to maintain each practice with conviction, not just habit.
- › To appreciate the value of each practice so we equip the next generation to inherit the wells and continue the work.

Schedule:

May 17	Intro — Digging Wells
May 24	Why Church Service Dynamics
May 31	Why The Prayer Meeting
June 7	Why Outreach
<i>June 14</i>	<i>No class — Prayer Meeting</i>
June 21	Why Concerts
June 28	Why Discipleship
July 5	Why Male Leadership
July 12	Why Morning Prayer
July 19	Why Textual Preaching
July 26	Why Altar Calls
August 2	Conclusion

*“And Isaac dug again the wells of water,
which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father.”*

G E N E S I S 2 6 : 1 8

Homework due:

Due Date	Assignments:	Memory Verse
May 17		
May 24	Complete pastor's leadership 360 anonymous feedback survey. QR code below or https://form.jotform.com/261274308252049	10 Commandments
May 31	What area of your Christian living seems to be lacking the most? What are you doing to improve? Do you know how and where to get help?	Books of the New Testament
June 7	If you could change something about your church what would it be?	Books of the Old Testament
<i>June 14</i>	<i>No class — Prayer Meeting</i>	
June 21	If you messed up morally, would you come to Pastor or his wife to admit it and get help? Why or why not?	John 3:16-17
June 28	How confident are you in the process of making a disciple? Considering Instruction, Example, and Application: Which is your strength/weakness?	Phil 4:6-8
July 5	What was the exact date you were saved?	Gal 2:20-21
July 12	What's a habit you'd like to start, and one you'd like to stop?	Rom 8:1
July 19	If your closest friend and your harshest critic described you, what would each say?	Rom 12:1-2
July 26	What would you do with your time if money were not a factor?	Acts 1:4-8
August 2	How do you recover when something doesn't go your way?	Josh 1:8



(Submit all written assignments to gunkel1@me.com)