

IN THE BEGINNING GOD**How Isaac Got a Bride Genesis 24:1—25:18**

“Praise be to the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned his kindness and faithfulness to my master.” Genesis 24:27a

Day 1: Read Genesis 24:1–9.

1. Abraham is now old, and the Lord has “blessed him in every way” (v.1). Recount the ways. While Abraham was going through all the events narrated in Genesis, did they always immediately appear to be blessings? How is it with the events in your life? (Rom. 8:28)
2. Thinking he will die soon, Abraham makes his servant swear an oath that he will not take a wife for his son Isaac from among the Canaanites. Why? What’s the harm in marrying a Canaanite? (Deut. 7:3, 4)
3. Nor does Abraham want Isaac to go back and settle in the land Abraham came from (vv. 5, 6). Why? What vision drives the Patriarch? (v.7; Heb. 11:11–16).

Day 2: Read Genesis 24:5–49.

4. Why does Abraham readily agree to release his servant from his oath (v.8) even if the woman that the angel leads the servant to should refuse to come? Isn’t that a bit risky? (v. 40; Consider Prov. 3:5, 6)
5. We don’t even learn the servant’s name. But what do you make of his character? (vv.12, 33, 48)
6. When we ask for guidance, what do we have to be sure of? (1 Jn. 5:1,15) Why do we sometimes forfeit the guidance we could have? (James 1:5–8; 4:2b, 3)
7. Notice the way the servant makes his petitions to God, not in bland generalities but creatively and specifically. Do you talk to God like that? Try to have a real conversation with the Lord today, and ask for something specific from his Word and promises.(vv. 12-14)

Day 3: Read Genesis 24:12–60.

8. Verse 15 says that before the servant has even finished praying, Rebekah comes out. Is that just a coincidence? Do you think the servant is watching closely and with expectation for the answer to his prayer? Colossians 4:2 tells us to be “watchful” in prayer. What does that mean to you?
9. What does the servant do when he realizes that God has brought him to the right woman? (vv. 26, 27) Who is the servant glad for? (v.27) Read Romans 12:15 and talk about the kind of heart God loves.
10. At every turn, Abraham’s servant’s single-minded desire has been to please his master (vv. 31–34, 55, 56). How is that like Jesus? (Jn. 4:32–34; 5:30b) What is our calling? (2 Cor. 5:9; Col. 3:23, 24)

Day 4: Read Genesis 24:15–67.

11. What do Laban and Bethuel, Abraham’s relatives, recognize in the events that have transpired? (v.50) Share with the group some event in your own life that clearly came from the Lord.
12. Describe Rebekah’s demeanor when the servant asks for water, as well as her attitude upon leaving her family to serve her husband-to-be. (vv. 17–21, 57, 58, 64, 65)
13. What kind of woman is beautiful in God’s eyes? (Prov. 31:30; 1 Pet. 3:3–6)
14. How are the responses of Abraham and Rebekah alike? (12:1,4a; 24:58)

Day 5: Read Genesis 25:1–18.

15. The Genesis narrator wants to tie up loose ends before launching into the story of Isaac’s son Jacob. How does he show that God is removing every obstacle to the clear line of descent of the seed of promise? (v. 5, 6; 17:18, 19)
16. How does the brief treatment of Ishmael’s descendants (25:13–16) serve to demonstrate the fulfillment of God’s promise to a distraught servant woman named Hagar back in Genesis 21:18?
17. The narrator has in a few verses dispensed with the story of Ishmael’s line before moving on to what is more interesting to him—the line of Jacob. Why is Jacob’s line more important? (Matt.1:1–16)