



CHAPTER
24

GENESIS

DAY ONE

1. Please read the chapter twice before starting the study guide. Abraham is preparing to pass the mantle to his son, Isaac. The scripture said Abraham is very old and the LORD had blessed him in every way. What picture came to mind when you read the words of verse 1?

What are some of the ways God had blessed Abraham?

2. Would you say you are blessed by God?

List a few of the blessings you are enjoying today.

3. Genesis 24:2 mentioned the “eldest servant of his house,” or another translation referred to him as “the senior servant in his household.” We have read about this servant before in Genesis 15:2. Do you recall this servant’s name?

4. This servant’s name means “God is help.” This is the perfect name for a man who is being asked to handle such an important assignment. Not only does he carefully follow orders to go and get a wife for the master’s son, but he is about to play a very important part in fulfilling God’s promises to Abraham. What had God promised Abraham concerning his descendants?

If you are not sure or don’t recall, look back and highlight these verses in your Bible: Genesis 12:2,7; Genesis 15:5 and Genesis 17:4-8. Then write down the promise.

5. What is one thing Isaac is missing if he is to see this promise fulfilled?

6. Did you feel the weight of Abraham’s request as you read verses 2-4?
How serious was Abraham?
What did he tell his servant to do?

7. What do you know about the Canaanites?

Do you recall where this group of people originated?
If not, read Genesis 9:25—27.

8. God has called Abraham and his descendants to walk before him uprightly. They were to choose to be honorable in all their dealings. There are many distinguishing characteristics of an upright person. Godly fear, or reverence, is part of the upright person's daily walk. Read Proverbs 10:9; 11:3; 14:2; 15:21; 16:17; what are some of the signs of one who walks uprightly and one who does not?

9. Do you remember where Abraham's relatives settled after leaving Ur of the Chaldees? If not, read Genesis 11:31-32.

10. Abraham and Isaac lived near Hebron. Abraham's servant had a very long journey ahead of him. Find a map that shows Hebron and Haran. (most Bibles have maps in the back.) What is the approximate distance the servant was about to travel just to be in the vicinity of Abraham's kinsmen?

DAY TWO

11. Abraham's servant doesn't even mention the distance or the dangers of a trip like this. According to verse 5, what is the only concern he has before leaving?

12. What does the servant suggest?

13. Did Abraham like his idea?

14. Why do you suppose he did not want Isaac to go with his servant to find a bride?

15. Abram had lived in Haran for a while before moving into the land of Canaan. What could have been some of the reasons for remaining in Haran for a time?

Do you think there are times when family pressure to remain close could be in opposition to what God is calling a person to do?

16. Besides obedience to God's call on his life, can you think of any other benefits of moving away from family?

What tends to happen to a couple when they move away from family and friends?

17. Genesis 24:7 was such an encouraging verse. Unlike the servant, we see a confidence of faith in Abraham's words. Abraham has walked with God for many years. Here we see Abraham's relationship with God is not a "hope so" faith. Abraham assured his servant, "God _____ send his angel before you...". Are you able to stand with confidence knowing God will work his plans and purposes for your good and his glory?

Can you think of a verse from God's word that strengthens your faith? Write the verse and share it in your small group.

18. Read Isaiah 55:8, God's plan is always bigger than what you and I can see. One thing Abraham has learned is that to see God's plan, we must be willing to follow His lead. Read Psalm 18:30, what do we know about God's plans?

The servant was only responsible for doing what he had been asked to do. Whose responsibility is it to work out the details?

19. Once again in verse 8, what does Abraham make perfectly clear?

20. In verse 9 the servant promised his master, Abraham, he would do his best. This was an ancient way of promising something with a solemn oath. After he made this firm commitment to find a wife for Isaac, he packed up and headed out. What did he take with him?

DAY THREE

21. What was the purpose of all the good things the servant took with him?

22. The servant left the area of Hebron and started his long journey north. This journey would have taken many days to travel. Even camels can only go so long without rest and water. When he arrived at the well outside the town of Nahor, he instructed his camels to lie down. (Nahor was the name of Abraham's grandfather.) Then he prayed. What were the details of the prayer in verses 12-14?



23. Were you surprised by the preciseness of the details in his prayer?

24. When you are praying about something important, do you pray with this kind of detail?

25. What is the benefit of specific prayers like this one in Genesis 24:14?

What did the servant say was the reason he prayed so specifically?

26. Scripture tells us, God answered his prayer before he had finished praying. Who came walking out of the city to fetch some water?

27. We are introduced to Rebekah for the first time in Genesis 24:15. What is the first thing we learn about this woman's character?

28. What did you learn from verse 15 about her family line?

- a. Grandparents-
- b. Father-

29. Not only do we see Rebekah is a hard worker, and she comes from the right family, but what important details are given in verse 16?

30. The servant “hurried to meet her” and said, “Please give me a little water from your jar.” What is the next character quality we see in verse 18, as we are getting to know Rebekah?

31. It is one thing to generously share a drink of water with a weary stranger; but what we read in verses 19-20 reveals even more about Rebekah’s character. Fill in the blanks using the NIV translation.

“After she had given him a _____, she said, “I’ll draw water for _____
_____ too, until they have had _____ to drink.” 20 So she
_____ emptied her jar into the trough, _____ to the
well to draw more water, and drew enough for _____ his camels.”

DAY FOUR

32. If you have a son, what are some of the qualities you would like to see in your future daughter-in-law?

33. Take a minute to do a quick Google search about camels. How much water can a thirsty camel drink?

34. Now let’s do the math. The servant has ten camels. A gallon of water weighs approximately 8.34 pounds. If the camels had only needed 10 gallons to top off their reserves, 10 camels X 10 gallons each = 100 gallons. I’d say this classifies that day as a real workout for Rebekah, wouldn’t you?

What are some words that might describe Rebekah’s work ethic?

35. After watching Rebekah work to satisfy his camels thirst the servant felt confident about one thing; this was exactly the type of woman he had asked the LORD to bring his way. What is the next important detail the servant is concerned with before he could definitively say this is the one for Isaac?

36. As if watering his camels was not enough, what further hospitality did Rebekah offer this man she has just met?

37. Think of the last time you showed generosity to a total stranger. Was your next response another extravagant act of generosity to that person?

One of my favorite Life Church core values is, “We will lead the way with irrational generosity. We truly believe it is more blessed to give than to receive.”

38. What was the servant’s response when Rebekah informed him of her family line?

Could there be any other response than this to all the servant has just experienced?

39. Fill in the blanks below. What does the servant praise God for doing for his master and for him?

“Praise be to the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned his _____ and _____ to my master. As for me, the LORD has _____ me on the journey to the house of my master’s relatives.” (Verse 27)

40. Rebekah cannot wait to get home and tell her family about this encounter. Verse 29 tells us Laban, her brother, hurried out to find this stranger. What do you believe motivated him to find this man?

41. Did you smile when you read verse 31?

Laban told Abraham’s servant to follow him home, that he had prepared the house and a place for the camels. What do you think Laban might have done to prepare for this stranger to stay the night?

42. Did you notice the act of kindness shown to this stranger upon his arrival? (Verse 32) What was it? We have seen this important custom of hospitality carried out before in Genesis 18:4.

Next a beautiful meal is being brought in for the servant and his men to enjoy. But before any other acts of kindness can be enjoyed the servant insists on business first. What details does the servant tell Laban? List them all, they are each worthy of our attention.

DAY FIVE

43. In verse 49 the servant poses a clear question to Rebekah's family. What does he ask?

44. What was the response of Rebekah's family to all the events of that day?

45. Once again, we see the servant in a posture of worship. He acknowledged the angel of the LORD who had gone before him. Abraham's servant gives the gifts he has brought from his master. This is a dowry, given to the family who would be losing such a valuable worker. As was the custom of most ancient family arrangements, it was accompanied by a meal. The next morning, we read the servant prepared to head home when Rebekah's family made a request. What was the request?

46. What was the response of the servant who had traveled there and seen God work out all the details?

Why is he in such a hurry to return home?
(Hint: Genesis 24:1)

47. Who was allowed to make the decision to leave immediately or enjoy 10 more days saying goodbye?

48. What was Rebekah's answer?

49. Genesis 24 closes with an important lesson on the key to marriage, leave and cleave.

In a Focus on the Family article titled, *“Marriage means leaving home and cleaving to each other”* Ted Cunningham writes, *“Whatever the gap between leaving and cleaving may be, a thriving marriage only works when both husband and wife leave their parents’ home in numerous ways.”*

1. Leave home physically.
2. Leave home relationally.
3. Leave home emotionally.
4. Leave home financially.
5. Leave home spiritually.

What are your thoughts on the importance of leaving and cleaving?

There may be times when for a season you must move back to care for a parent or for them to assist you in some way, but it is best if this is only for a season. Mr. Cunningham closes his article with these words, “Please keep in mind that your return is just for a season; your marriage is for a lifetime.”

50. Pastor Ted Cunningham (speaking at a conference a couple of years ago) reminded those in the audience, ***“Marital satisfaction is a choice not an outcome.”*** It should be the decision we make every day. Rebekah made a choice to make the long journey to the land of Canaan and marry Isaac. When they neared the field where Isaac had been residing, Rebekah inquired as to who the man was coming out to meet them. The servant said, “He is my master.” Isaac welcomed her into his home, married her, and scripture said, “he was comforted after his mother’s death.”

What are some of the ways a wife can be a comfort to her husband?

NOTES

DAY ONE

Question 8

Proverbs 10:9 (KJV)

⁹Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.

Proverbs 11:3 (KJV)

³The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity

Proverbs 14:2 (KJV)

²Whoever fears the LORD walks uprightly, but those who despise him are devious in their ways.

Proverbs 15:21 (KJV)

²¹Folly brings joy to one who has no sense, but whoever has understanding keeps a straight course.

Proverbs 16:17 (KJV)

¹⁷The highway of the upright avoids evil; those who guard their ways preserve their lives.

DAY TWO

Question 18

Isaiah 55:8 (KJV)

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.

Psalms 18:30 (KJV)

³⁰As for God, his way is perfect: The LORD's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him.

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NOTES

B I B L E C H A P T E R S

Genesis 24 (NIV)

¹Abraham was now very old, and the LORD had blessed him in every way.

²He said to the senior servant in his household, the one in charge of all that he had, “Put your hand under my thigh.

³I want you to swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living,

⁴but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac.”

⁵The servant asked him, “What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to this land? Shall I then take your son back to the country you came from?”

⁶“Make sure that you do not take my son back there,” Abraham said.

⁷“The LORD, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father’s household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, ‘To your offspring I will give this land’—he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there.

⁸If the woman is unwilling to come back with you, then you will be released from this oath of mine. Only do not take my son back there.”

⁹So the servant put his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham and swore an oath to him concerning this matter.

¹⁰Then the servant left, taking with him ten of his master’s camels loaded with all kinds of good things from his master. He set out for Aram Naharaim and made his way to the town of Nahor.

¹¹He had the camels kneel down near the well outside the town; it was toward evening, the time the women go out to draw water.

¹²Then he prayed, “LORD, God of my master Abraham, make me successful today, and show kindness to my master Abraham.

¹³See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water.

¹⁴May it be that when I say to a young woman, ‘Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,’ and she says, ‘Drink, and I’ll water your camels too’—let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master.”

¹⁵Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milkah, who was the wife of Abraham’s brother Nahor.

¹⁶The woman was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had ever slept with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar and came up again.

¹⁷The servant hurried to meet her and said, “Please give me a little water from your jar.”

¹⁸“Drink, my lord,” she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink.

¹⁹After she had given him a drink, she said, “I’ll draw water for your camels too, until they have had enough to drink.”

²⁰So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, ran back to the well to draw more water, and drew enough for all his camels.

²¹Without saying a word, the man watched her closely to learn whether or not the LORD had made his journey successful.

²²When the camels had finished drinking, the man took out a gold nose ring weighing a beka and two gold bracelets weighing ten shekels.

²³Then he asked, “Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room in your father’s house for us to spend the night?”

²⁴She answered him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son that Milkah bore to Nahor.”

²⁵And she added, “We have plenty of straw and fodder, as well as room for you to spend the night.”

²⁶ Then the man bowed down and worshiped the LORD,
²⁷ saying, “Praise be to the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned his kindness and faithfulness to my master. As for me, the LORD has led me on the journey to the house of my master’s relatives.”
²⁸ The young woman ran and told her mother’s household about these things.
²⁹ Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban, and he hurried out to the man at the spring.
³⁰ As soon as he had seen the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister’s arms, and had heard Rebekah tell what the man said to her, he went out to the man and found him standing by the camels near the spring.
³¹ “Come, you who are blessed by the LORD,” he said. “Why are you standing out here? I have prepared the house and a place for the camels.”
³² So the man went to the house, and the camels were unloaded. Straw and fodder were brought for the camels, and water for him and his men to wash their feet.
³³ Then food was set before him, but he said, “I will not eat until I have told you what I have to say.”
“Then tell us,” Laban said.
³⁴ So he said, “I am Abraham’s servant.
³⁵ The LORD has blessed my master abundantly, and he has become wealthy. He has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys.
³⁶ My master’s wife Sarah has borne him a son in her old age, and he has given him everything he owns.
³⁷ And my master made me swear an oath, and said, ‘You must not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live,
³⁸ but go to my father’s family and to my own clan, and get a wife for my son.’
³⁹ “Then I asked my master, ‘What if the woman will not come back with me?’
⁴⁰ “He replied, ‘The LORD, before whom I have walked faithfully, will send his angel with you and make your journey a success, so that you can get a wife for my son from my own clan and from my father’s family.
⁴¹ You will be released from my oath if, when you go to my clan, they refuse to give her to you—then you will be released from my oath.’
⁴² “When I came to the spring today, I said, ‘LORD, God of my master Abraham, if you will, please grant success to the journey on which I have come.
⁴³ See, I am standing beside this spring. If a young woman comes out to draw water and I say to her, “Please let me drink a little water from your jar,”
⁴⁴ and if she says to me, “Drink, and I’ll draw water for your camels too,” let her be the one the LORD has chosen for my master’s son.’
⁴⁵ “Before I finished praying in my heart, Rebekah came out, with her jar on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water, and I said to her, ‘Please give me a drink.’
⁴⁶ “She quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder and said, ‘Drink, and I’ll water your camels too.’ So I drank, and she watered the camels also.
⁴⁷ “I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’
“She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel son of Nahor, whom Milkah bore to him.’ “Then I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her arms,
⁴⁸ and I bowed down and worshiped the LORD. I praised the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to get the granddaughter of my master’s brother for his son.
⁴⁹ Now if you will show kindness and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so I may know which way to turn.”
⁵⁰ Laban and Bethuel answered, “This is from the LORD; we can say nothing to you one way or the other.
⁵¹ Here is Rebekah; take her and go, and let her become the wife of your master’s son, as the LORD has directed.”
⁵² When Abraham’s servant heard what they said, he bowed down to the ground before the LORD.
⁵³ Then the servant brought out gold and silver jewelry and articles of clothing and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave costly gifts to her brother and to her mother.

⁵⁴ Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night there.

When they got up the next morning, he said, "Send me on my way to my master."

⁵⁵ But her brother and her mother replied, "Let the young woman remain with us ten days or so; then you may go."

⁵⁶ But he said to them, "Do not detain me, now that the LORD has granted success to my journey. Send me on my way so I may go to my master."

⁵⁷ Then they said, "Let's call the young woman and ask her about it."

⁵⁸ So they called Rebekah and asked her, "Will you go with this man?" "I will go," she said.

⁵⁹ So they sent their sister Rebekah on her way, along with her nurse and Abraham's servant and his men.

⁶⁰ And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "Our sister, may you increase to thousands upon thousands; may swered. So she took her veil and covered herself.

⁶⁶ Then the servant told Isaac all he had done.

⁶⁷ Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.
your offspring possess the cities of their enemies."

⁶¹ Then Rebekah and her attendants got ready and mounted the camels and went back with the man. So the servant took Rebekah and left.

⁶² Now Isaac had come from Beer Lahai Roi, for he was living in the Negev.

⁶³ He went out to the field one evening to meditate, and as he looked up, he saw camels approaching.

⁶⁴ Rebekah also looked up and saw Isaac. She got down from her camel

⁶⁵ and asked the servant, "Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?" "He is my master," the servant answered. So she took her veil and covered herself.

⁶⁶ Then the servant told Isaac all he had done.

⁶⁷ Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

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NOTES