



Scripture



Genesis 24:12-19, 23-27,63-67

Unit .02

Session .03

God Provides for His Promise

12 And he said, “O LORD, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. **13** Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. **14** Let the young woman to whom I shall say, ‘Please let down your jar that I may drink,’ and who shall say, ‘Drink, and I will water your camels’—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master.” **15** Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, came out with her water jar on her shoulder. **16** The young woman was very attractive in appearance, a maiden whom no man had known. She went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up. **17** Then the servant ran to meet her and said, “Please give me a little water to drink from your jar.” **18** She said, “Drink, my lord.” And she quickly let down her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. **19** When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, “I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking.” ... **23** and said, “Please tell me whose

daughter you are. Is there room in your father’s house for us to spend the night?” **24** She said to him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.” **25** She added, “We have plenty of both straw and fodder, and room to spend the night.” **26** The man bowed his head and worshiped the LORD **27** and said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the LORD has led me in the way to the house of my master’s kinsmen.”... **63** And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening. And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there were camels coming. **64** And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel **65** and said to the servant, “Who is that man, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. **66** And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. **67** Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

Why should we respond to opportunities in our lives with the mind-set that if something is supposed to happen, God has to “make it happen?”



99 Essential Doctrines

The Bride of Christ

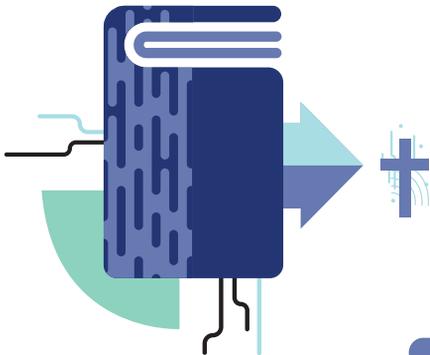
The church is described as the bride of Christ, faithfully waiting for the day when Christ will return and heaven and earth will be one. Made up of all believers from all tongues and nations, the church is the bride that Christ redeemed. The picture of a bride also speaks to the permanence of Christ’s relationship with the church, for marriage was intended by God to be a lasting covenant between a man and a woman (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5).

Main Point

God works providentially to bring about His purposes.

When have you experienced God answering your prayers? What happened? How has that shaped your prayer life today?

How can this account remind us that God's work in our lives can be part of a much bigger picture that we may not be able to see at the moment?



Christ Connection

God provided Rebekah as a wife for Isaac according to His covenant promise to bless to the world through Abraham's family. In the same way, God provides the church as a bride for His Son to bless the world by sharing about God's plan of salvation through Jesus.

Why should we be encouraged to know that God delights in using imperfect people to accomplish His perfect goal?

Think about the chronological connection between Isaac and Rebekah and the birth of Jesus, and the thousands of people born and marriages in between to make that happen. How does this reality place a spotlight on God's sovereignty and goodness?

In Defense



Facts don't interpret themselves. For example, if you were to walk into your first period classroom and see that all of the chairs had been placed neatly on the desks and pushed to the center of the room, then the facts you see before you are just that—the chairs are now on the desks and at the center of the room. But that doesn't explain how they got there or the reason they are there. For these "facts" to make sense, you have to interpret them by giving an explanation. Maybe the chairs were set up this way for the custodians to clean the floors or maybe the teacher—who has done similar things in the past—is planning to do an activity with the class.

The Christian worldview offers the best explanation for the things we see around us. Where some worldviews can only conclude chance or randomness against all odds, the Christian worldview can rightly conclude, like in this text, that God is providentially at work to accomplish His plan in the lives of His people.



Head

How does our awareness of God's character help us take steps of obedience and faith even when we cannot see all God is doing?

Why do we sometimes operate under the assumption that we need to find out where God is working and then join Him versus believing God is always at work?



Heart

In what area of your life is it more challenging for you to see God at work?

How do Abraham and his servant encourage us to trust in God in working out even the smallest details in our lives?

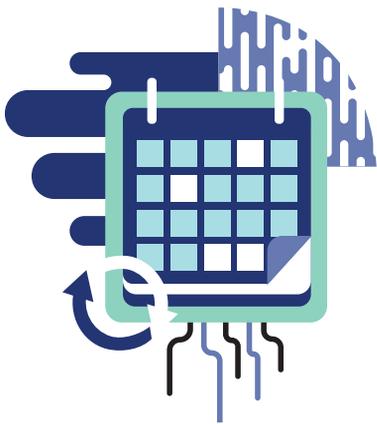


Hands

How does the servant's faithfulness to pray and believe in God to act encourage you to be more active in your prayer life this week?

What are some things you need to be in prayer for this week?

Daily Devotions



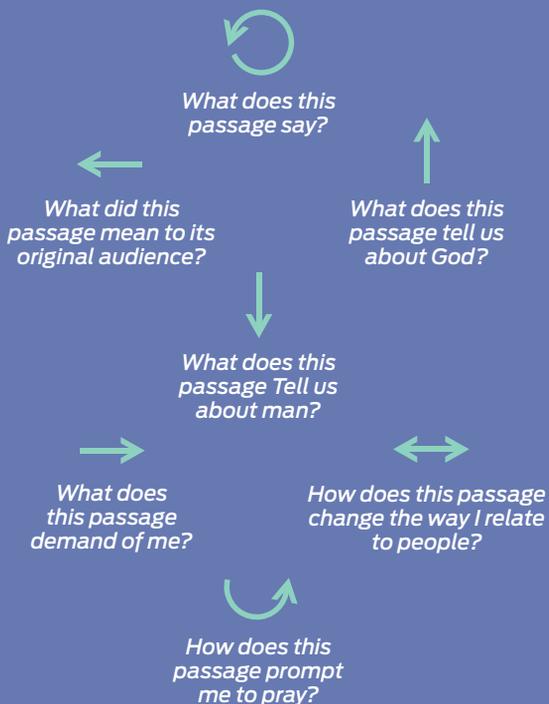
Day 1

Genesis 23:1-20

The entire chapter of Genesis 23 is dedicated to telling about Sarah's death and burial. This highlights her importance in the redemptive story unfolding in Genesis, but it also offers us insight into grief. Even for those of us in Christ—those of us who have the hope that death is not final—death still stings. We are to mourn and weep over our loved ones who have died, much like Abraham grieved over Sarah.

Here, and elsewhere in Scripture, we see that grieving is expected. Abraham was not scolded for his mourning and weeping. Mourning death is proper, because in our tears we communicate the value of the gift God has given us in our loved one.

The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



How has the gospel impacted your view of death and your grieving?

Genesis 24:10-27

Abraham's servant demonstrated great wisdom in the test he devised to find a potential wife for Isaac. Giving a stranger a drink of water was one thing; volunteering to draw water for ten thirsty camels was something else all together. Hospitality was at the heart of the servant's test. A woman who was willing to make such an effort to demonstrate hospitality revealed much about her character. And a woman of character was who the servant was after.

As followers of Christ, we have been likewise called to practice hospitality, even if it comes at great cost to us (Rom. 12:13; Heb. 13:2; 1 Pet. 4:9). The reason is because hospitality affirms the gospel. It is compelled by humility and care for others, which Christ demonstrated perfectly for us.

How can you practice hospitality for people in your church and neighborhood this week?

Genesis 24:28-49

We can't miss what caught Laban's attention, at least in part, in this account. We read that "as soon as he had seen the ring and bracelets on his sister's wrists" and heard what she shared, he ran out to meet Abraham's servant. Being intrigued by the potential wealth of this visitor doesn't seem out of character for Laban as we will see later in Genesis. This is important because it hints that the servant may have won approval for Rebekah to become Isaac's wife by focusing on Abraham's great wealth.

But that is not what the servant does. Notice that as he recounts what had happened, he is very clear to appeal to what God had done. That was what he stood on—God was clearly at work to provide Rebekah for Isaac.

While seeing what God is doing around us is sometimes difficult, there are times when we make what we know He has done difficult for others to see. Unlike Abraham's servant, we fail to tell others about His works when we have the opportunity. When we keep this to ourselves, we miss opportunities to declare His kingdom to those who need to hear it.

What has God done in your life recently and with whom can you share about this?

Genesis 24:50-67

Sending Rebekah to a foreign land to marry a man she had never met had to have been difficult for her family. There was no email, phones, and or even a postal system in place to communicate. Rebekah's family may have never seen her, or even heard from her, again. And yet, because they knew God was at work, they let her leave (v. 50).

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus said something interesting about family, specifically that following Him would bring divisions in families (Matt. 8:20-23; Matt. 10: 35-37; Luke 14:26). But when someone loses a brother or sister, mother or father on account of Jesus, he or she needs to remember that they gain 10,000 plus new ones.

But sometimes the gospel will separate a family for different reasons; when God calls a family member to the mission field, for example. Even if a family is united by the gospel, separation like this will be difficult, but we know it will all be worth it. Because Christ is always worth it.

How can you encourage missionaries and others you know who have been separated from family and loved ones for the sake of the gospel?

Genesis 25:19-26

Isaac was the child of promise who carried forward the promises of land, offspring, and blessing God gave to Abraham. But before the promises went forward, a crisis had to be addressed. Isaac's wife, Rebekah, could not have children. (A story similar to Abraham's wife, Sarah's.)

Rebekah's barrenness was not only tragic for the family, as painful as not being able to have children may be. In this case, barrenness was a cosmic tragedy because God had promised that the removal of the curse of sin and the defeat of Satan would come through the birth of a child (Gen. 3:15), and the restoration of the world would come through the Abraham's offspring (12:1-3). The fact that Rebekah could not have children again put those promises in jeopardy.

But Isaac prayed for his wife, and God miraculously opened her womb. Are you noticing the pattern here? God used unlikely pregnancies and births to keep His promises and deliver His people—and He asked His people to trust Him in the process.

What difficult circumstances in your life might be opportunities to trust in God?