

SERMON NOTES:

WESTERN MEADOWS BAPTIST CHURCH

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

GENESIS | Abraham: The Man of Faith

ISAAC AND REBEKAH (Genesis 24)

OPENING THOUGHT

Abraham's life was full of difficulty and blessing. Repeatedly, God placed him in situations where Abraham was able to exercise his faith in God. Though he also failed by sinning numerous times, the patriarch ultimately was willing to trust and obey God, no matter how difficult God's command might be. Truly Paul is correct in calling Abraham the man of faith.

We now come the closing chapter of Abraham's story arc within Genesis. We have already seen that Abraham passed his largest test of faith by being willing to sacrifice Isaac, which was the climax of Abraham's life. Last week marked how Abraham was now faithfully approaching the end of his life by making sure that a piece of Canaan was secured as a sign of how God would bless his descendants. This chapter continues that idea of Abraham passing his blessings and promises from God down to his son Isaac, and this time, Abraham does so through finding Isaac a wife.

Given that this is the longest chapter of Genesis and that it is full of repetition, we can be tempted to skim over these verses; however, it is important to note that this chapter is full of significance. One of the primary promises that God gave Abraham was regarding Abraham's multitude of descendants. Obviously, that promise could not be fulfilled through Isaac if he did not have a wife with whom to have a child. Thus, by sending his servant to find a wife for Isaac, Abraham is again faithfully establishing the means for God's promises to continue after his own death.

WEEK 15

SUGGESTED VERSES FOR MEMORIZATION & MEDITATION

- The man bowed his head and worshiped the LORD 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." (Genesis 24:26-27)
- God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:9)

READ VERSES 1-9 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

1. Within these verses, we read of Abraham's desire to find a wife for Isaac, as well as his insistence that Isaac remain living in the land of Canaan. How do both of these actions display Abraham's faith in God and His promises?

READ VERSES 10-27 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

2. Abraham's servant creates a plan for finding Isaac's wife. He does this by looking for a woman that was freely willing to water his master's ten camels. Since camels can easily drink up to 20 gallons of water at a time, this would have been a significant task. What does this tell us about how the servant was looking for Isaac's wife-to-be? What characteristics was he looking for?
3. The servant responds to Rebekah's willingness to water the camels by publicly worshiping God, giving thanks for His steadfast love and faithfulness. Why is it important that the Old Testament reveals that God shows steadfast love to His people?

READ VERSES 28-60 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

4. Through these verses, Abraham's servant recounts to Rebekah's family how God guided him to Rebekah as a wife for Isaac. What are some of the ways (through action or speech) that display the servant's faith in God and his duty to Abraham?

READ VERSES 28-60 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

5. Upon meeting Rebekah, Isaac takes her into Sarah's tent. This symbolically shows that Isaac and Rebekah are now the bearers of God's blessings and promises that He gave to Abraham and Sarah. Furthermore, it states that Isaac loved Rebekah. How is this both similar and different from our current ideas of love and marriage?

ACTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Consider the servant's model of worshipful and faithful service and whether you live similarly.
- Notice Isaac's intentional loving of Rebekah (a woman that he has just met). Do you love with similar intentionality? Particularly in terms of romantic love, are you dependent upon feeling in love or are you determined to love? Resolve how you might better and more purposefully love others.