

Genesis

Lesson 13 A Wife for Isaac Genesis 24

Memorize the TRUTH!

Then he prayed, "O LORD, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham."
Genesis 24:12

An Important Mission – Genesis 24:1-9

Day 1

1. a. What responsibility did Abraham entrust to his servant?

b. Why was this task especially important?

c. Why didn't Abraham do it himself?
2. a. What two things was Abraham concerned about?

b. How did these concerns reflect Abraham's belief in God's promise to him?

Learn the TRUTH!



Abraham sends his most trusted servant to return to the country of his birth to seek God's choice for Isaac's wife. The servant provides a great picture of what Christians should be: devoted, faithful and obedient. This week, ask God to help you follow that servant's example as you serve Him.

Prayerful Obedience – Genesis 24:10-27

Day 2

3. a. What strategy did the servant employ as he began his search for a wife for Isaac?

b. What signs did he ask for?
4. How did the servant know he had found the right girl?
5. a. What qualities did the servant demonstrate in this passage?

b. Which of these qualities are necessary for us also if we want to serve God successfully? Why?

**God Gives Success
Genesis 24:28-49**

Day 3

6. a. Who seems to be in charge in Rebekah's household?

b. How would you describe this person?
7. a. How did the servant demonstrate his faithfulness to Abraham?

b. What details about Abraham did he include in his story? Why do you think he included these details?
8. How does the servant's account of his search reveal his faith and reverence for God?

**Return to Canaan
Genesis 24:50-67**

Day 4

9. a. How did Rebekah's family respond to the servant's request?

b. What factors do you think influenced their decision?

c. How is the blessing of Rebekah in verse 60 similar to God's plan for Abraham in Genesis 12:2?
10. a. Who accompanied Rebekah on her journey back to Canaan?

b. What do you think Rebekah thought about on that long, 500-mile journey?

**Believing the Promise
Genesis 24:1-67**

Day 5

11. What can we learn from this chapter about discovering God's will?
12. What principles can we learn about being a faithful servant from this passage?
13. The servant did not ask for a miracle, but for guidance through clear signs in natural circumstances. Tell about a time God guided you in this way.

Live the TRUTH!

By faith, Abraham left his home not knowing where he was going, but knowing he had been told to go. Now Rebekah proves her spiritual maturity when she is ready to embark on a long, difficult trip to marry a man she's never met because she is convinced that it is God's will for her to do so. If God made it clear to you that you were to move immediately to another place, far from family and friends, would you ask for more time to think and pray about it? Or would you just start packing?

Commentary Genesis Lesson 13

Abraham is 140 years old at the time the chapter opens. Though Isaac is now about 40 years old, it is still a father's role to arrange a suitable marriage for his heir. Abraham, being too old to travel, assigns his faithful servant to represent the Patriarch before his relatives. This unnamed "chief servant" proves to be the central figure and hero in the drama as it unfolds.

Under no circumstances must Isaac take a Canaanite wife. The Patriarch knows that faith in God does not exist among the local women, and fear of God is not evident in their lifestyle. The servant would have to return to Aram Naharaim (also called Paddan Aram) and find a suitable cousin. God, who had been so faithful in the past, would not abandon Abraham now concerning this need: "He will send His angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there" (24:7). In the unlikely event that the servant finds no willing candidate, he should consider himself released from his oath. Twice, however, Abraham warns his servant, "do not take my son back there" (24:6, 8).

Abraham's servant begins his journey by preparing 10 camels for the trip, several of which bear presents for the bride-to-be and for her family. These gifts will show the financial health of the groom, who is, after all, a stranger to all the local kindred. The servant's destination is the town where Nahor, Abraham's brother, lives. After a trip of some 500 miles, Abraham's servant halts the caravan at the local public well. He has no way of identifying his master's kinsmen, so he asks God to take him directly to the young woman He has selected to be Isaac's wife. The servant appeals to God to identify the girl by having her offer both him and his camels water. Such an action could hardly be expected in the normal course of events. Drawing water for 10 camels involved a considerable amount of work, and for a young woman to take the initiative to do so for a stranger would be unlikely.

God's faithfulness is now demonstrated. Even before the servant's brief prayer is over, a beautiful young woman named Rebekah comes to the well. The servant must have held his breath as Rebekah, almost as though she were reading lines from a script, played out her part in answer to his prayer. After waiting until all the camels are watered, the servant prepares to give Rebekah expensive gifts from his master's treasure. First, however, he asks the critical question: "Whose daughter are you?" (24:23). Rebekah confirms his hopes when she replies that she is the granddaughter of Nahor and that her family would be glad to host the servant and his companions for the night. The servant immediately proclaims his gratitude to God, who has so quickly and clearly answered his prayers.

The servant is careful to point out that Isaac, the son who was born to his master late in life, is now heir of all of Abraham's fortune. The Patriarch is seeking a wife for Isaac who is faithful to Yahweh. If the servant finds such a young woman, he is ready on behalf of his master to be generous with her family. Everything the servant says is calculated to elevate Abraham in the sight of his extended family. He serves his master sincerely, omitting nothing that is in Abraham's interest, and adding nothing that would benefit himself alone.

Check It Out:

The servant points out to Rebekah's family that God was so prompt in answering his prayer, that "before I finished praying in my heart, Rebekah came out, with her jar on her shoulder" (24:45). When God answers a specific prayer so quickly and exactly, sharing that fact with other believers builds both their faith and ours.

Has God answered one of your prayers recently? Is it so obvious that God heard and acted in response to your petition that others would have their faith built up if you shared about it?

The servant ends his explanation by describing his prayer for divine guidance and the remarkable way it was answered in the person of Rebekah. He only wants to know if they “will show kindness and faithfulness” (24:29) to his master. His concern is to follow the Lord’s leading, and if they do not share that concern, he will be on his way.

Both Laban and Rebekah’s father, Bethuel, feel compelled to concur that God has expressed His will, a purpose they will not oppose. They agree to grant Rebekah’s hand in marriage to Isaac. The servant knows that the author of his success is Yahweh, so he bows in submission and thanksgiving. Then he provides costly gifts for Rebekah and for her brother and mother. Having found success on his mission, the servant and his group enjoy a meal with Bethuel’s family and stay overnight.

The family wisely decides to consult Rebekah concerning the matter. She, like the servant, shows her confidence in God by agreeing to go immediately on the long journey to Canaan. The family encourages her by sending along her personal servants. They also pronounce a blessing on her. It is their hope that her children will be numbered in the “thousands upon thousands” (24:60), a blessing that has been fulfilled many times over.

As the caravan arrives in Canaan, Isaac is visible in the distance. Rebekah dismounts from her camel and covers herself with a veil. The servant affirms God’s involvement in his entire experience, and Isaac brings her into Sarah’s tent. The act is important, for it is the only wedding ceremony typically observed by nomadic peoples at this time. The author notes that in his doing so “she became his wife” (24:67). God’s choice is always perfect: Isaac “loved her; and ... was comforted after his mother’s death.”



Have you ever wanted to know some simple, plain steps for finding God’s will? Here they are in chapter 24 of Genesis! First, you must really want God’s will, not just say you do. Abraham earnestly wanted a godly wife for Isaac – the next link in the promised chain from Abraham to Messiah. He knew that a godly wife would be found among his family, not among the pagan Canaanites, so he sent his servant back to his country. The servant obeyed his master, just as God expects us to obey when He speaks to us through His Word. And the servant prayed specific prayers for guidance. Then he watched for God to act. The instant Rebekah showed up, “the servant hurried to meet her.” We, too, must listen to God carefully through His Word, pray specifically, and act boldly to join God in working out His will in our lives.



What other verses can you find that relate to knowing and discovering God’s will?

Use a Bible concordance or index for help.