

### Background

- By the start of Genesis 24. . .
  - Abraham left his country 65 years before this and traveled to Canaan
    - His brother Nahor stayed behind with his family in Aram Naharaim (Northwest Mesopotamia)
  - Abraham's wife Sarah has passed away
  - Abraham is 140 years old
  - Abraham's son, Isaac, is 40 years old

### Read Verses 1-4

1) What did Abraham make his servant swear in an oath?

2) Why would Abraham want his servant to find a wife for Isaac from his own relatives?

3) What is the most valuable advice a Christian parent could give to their son or daughter about choosing a spouse?

### Read Verses 5-9

1) What concern did the servant express? What solution did he propose?

2) Why did Abraham forbid the servant to take Isaac back to the country Abraham came from?

3) Abraham's servant probably wasn't with Abraham when he left his home country 65 years before this and so he wouldn't know the way back. How would Abraham's servant find his way to Abraham's relatives?

4) Why could Abraham so confidently say that an angel would guide his servant to Abraham's relatives?

## Lesson 4: Isaac and Rebekah

## Genesis 24

5) When only would the servant be released from his oath? What would he still have to make sure of?

### Read Verses 10-14

1) The servant had journeyed somewhere between 400 and 500 miles. Describe the setting that the angel had guided him to.

2) What signal from God would indicate God's choice of a wife for Isaac?

3) In these verses how did Abraham's servant show he was both dedicated to his master and God-fearing? Discuss this with the people at your table.

### Read Verses 15-21

1) What two truths about prayer might we learn from verse 15?

**1 John 5:14 — "This is the confidence that we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."**

**Matthew 6:8 — "Your Father knows what you need before you ask him."**

2) Describe some of Rebekah's basic qualities you find from verses 15-21.

3) Had Rebekah met the requirements Abraham's servant laid down in his prayer?

## **Lesson 4: Isaac and Rebekah**

## **Genesis 24**

4) God had made it clear to Abraham's servant that Rebekah was the one he had chosen for Isaac. Do you think the servant doubted God by watching "her closely to learn whether or not the LORD had made his journey successful"?

### **Read Verses 22-27**

1) How did the servant show his thanks to Rebekah for giving him a drink and watering his camels?

2) The LORD had made the servant's journey a success. What two other things does Rebekah say which show the LORD's kindness and faithfulness?

3) How did the servant respond to the LORD's kindness and faithfulness?

### **Read Verses 28-33**

1) What did Rebekah immediately do after talking to Abraham's servant at the well?

2) Later in Genesis (31:38-42), Laban appears to be greedy. Evaluate his behavior here.

3) Abraham's servant had just traveled many days to get to this household. After traveling such a long way, he probably relished the thought of a good meal. Yet he refused to eat until he stated his business. Why do you think he did that?

### **Scan Verses 34-48 (the servant tells the story to Bethuel's household)**

1) The servant repeated what had happened in great detail. What important truth would that reveal to Bethuel and his family?

### **Read Verses 49-51**

1) On what basis did Laban and Bethuel give their consent to Rebekah's marriage to Isaac?

## Lesson 4: Isaac and Rebekah

## Genesis 24

### Read Verses 52-61

- 1) What did the costly gifts to Rebekah's mother and brother Laban serve as?
- 2) Why do you think Rebekah's brother and mother asked for ten more days with her?
- 3) Why do you think the servant asked to leave right away, denying their request?
- 4) What does Rebekah's response show about her?

### Read Verses 62-67

- 1) What did Rebekah do when she saw Isaac coming in the distance? What does meaning does that practice have behind it?
- 2) The kind of love God models for the family is agape love. This is the Greek word for the desire and determination to be a blessing to others. How did Isaac show this kind of love?
- 3) God's love for us is the best example of agape love. Explain.  

Romans 5:8 – "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- 4) Application: You and I don't have a visible angel in front of us guiding our steps in life like Abraham's servant had. Yet what are we able to do when in need of guidance?