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## FINDING A BRIDE FOR ISAAC

Genesis 24 is perhaps one of the most beautiful chapters in the entire bible. In the search for a bride for Isaac we get to see acknowledgment of God's provisions through life, trust in God to deliver through His promises and faith that God will lead them to the right bride God has in mind for Isaac. "Now Abraham was old, advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in every way," (Gen. 24:1). If only we would see this truth in each of our lives every day, what a trusted close relationship we could have with God to lead us by faith and find success in living according to His will. Abraham puts his trust in a servant to find a wife for his son Isaac, and ultimately his trust in the God who has blessed him to lead His servant. Abraham has his servant swear by God that he will not take a wife from among the

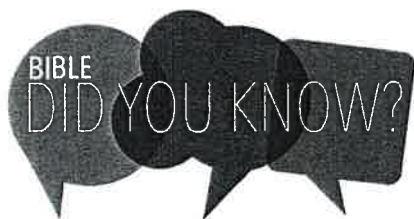
Canaanites, but from among Abraham's own relatives. The servant has a good question. "Suppose the woman is not willing to follow me to this land; should I take your son back to the land from where you came from?" (Gen. 24:5). The answer Abraham gives is one of the greatest demonstrations of a rich life of faith learned from seeing God work throughout His life. Abraham answers that based upon the promises God has given, he is confident that God will send His angel to lead his servant to find a wife from among his relatives. "He will send His angel before you, and you will take a wife for my son from there," (Gen. 24:7). What an amazing faith to have, that in regards to the specific details concerning our lives, when related to the greater promises God has given us, we can trust the angels to lead us and help us

in fulfilling God's will and purposes for us. "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?" (Heb. 1:14). This ought to give us great comfort and even more reason to trust and lean upon God and not our own understanding. God is willing to direct us if we will put our trust and faith in His guidance. The servant, then, putting his own faith in the guidance and direction he is assured of by Abraham God will give, asking God for success on his mission, and even seeking God's direction to show him who specifically to bring back to Isaac. "O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today, and show lovingkindness to my master Abraham. Behold, I am standing by the spring, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water; now may it be that the girl to whom I say, 'Please let down your jar so that I may drink,' and who answers, 'Drink, and I will water your camels also' – may she be the one whom You have appointed for Your servant Isaac; and by this I will know that You have shown lovingkindness to my master," (Gen. 24:12-14). In the movie, *The Princess Bride*, there is a

swordsman seeking direction and prays that his father would guide his sword to go in the right direction. While God assures and shows us He is willing to guide and direct, we also need to know what to look for. The servant makes a faith-based application in wisdom to have something to actually look for, rather than letting God take him directly by the hand and leading him right to the spot he needs to go. The servant makes the application that if his quest is going to be blessed by and directed by the God of Abraham in search of the right woman to fulfill God's purposes, he believes she must possess the very attributes of God Himself – kindness, care, concern, generosity. As he goes about the quest, he finds success as the very woman he prays to find comes out to offer kind generosity to the servant. "Then the servant ran to meet her, and said, 'Please let me drink a little water from your jar.' She said, 'Drink, my lord'; and she quickly lowered her jar to her hand, and gave him a drink. Now when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, 'I will draw also for your camels until they have finished drinking.' So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, and ran back to the well to

draw, and she drew for all his camels. Meanwhile, the man was gazing at her in silence, to know whether the LORD had made his journey successful or not,” (Gen. 24:17-21). Let us also prayerfully learn wisdom that we might properly apply the right attributes to keep an eye out for when seeking to be led by God. It would be well to note the servant realized he needed to apply an element of wisdom and discernment himself to be able to properly identify who exactly God was leading him to. “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him,” (Jms. 1:5). Notice how the Apostles also applied a general principle of wisdom when asking God for direction on who was to replace Judas in the ministry. They didn’t just say, “Let our fingers be pointed at the right one,” but rather they knew they had at least a select few to choose from, specifically, those who accompanied Jesus throughout His entire ministry on earth all the way up to being witnesses of His resurrection. “Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us –

beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us – one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection,” (Acts 1:21-22). Let us keep in mind, that if we are to have the greatest success in life in identifying God’s will for us in all we do, let us always remember the God who has blessed us in all we do, seek His counsel and direction, and also develop wisdom to properly identify and acknowledge how He will lead us in the right way.  
– Daniel Ruegg



***“Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things. So remove grief and anger from your heart and put away pain from your body, because childhood and the prime of life are fleeting.”***  
**Eccl. 11:9-10**



**DIRECTIONS:** Each first Sunday of the month, we will have challenges that you should attempt to complete by the end of the month. If we all, as members, complete these challenges, our church will grow in spirit and in number.

## **1) Praying Through Psalms Challenge**

***Psalms 34:1-3** "I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul will make its boast in the LORD; the humble will hear it and rejoice. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together."* While we are encouraged to trust in the power of prayer, at times we feel at a loss to know just how to put our intense emotions and feelings in prayer. The Psalms become a great blueprint to direct us in that way as David literally poured out his heart before the Lord in the Psalms. For this month, try picking out a few psalms that match the emotional intensity you wish to express in prayer and try praying through them. Make them personal to you, and incorporate the phrases and descriptions in your own way as you communicate to God in prayer. Try as many as you can this month and see if these same phrases and illustrations can become a regular part of your own expressions to the Lord in prayer.

## **2) USING YOUR BIBLE IN THE WORLD**

Share the following verses with someone who does not attend this congregation at least twice this month:

### ***Isaiah 6:1-8***

"In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, 'Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.' And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. Then I said, 'Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.' Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. He touched my mouth with it and said, 'Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and whom will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"