

FAITH LESSONS

Genesis 24:1—25:18

“Praise be to the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned his kindness and faithfulness to my master.” Genesis 24:27a

1. Read Genesis 24:1–9. Abraham is now old, and the Lord has “blessed him in every way” (verse 1). Think about Abraham’s story (starting in Genesis 12) and write down some of the ways God has blessed him.
 - a. Are blessings always immediately recognizable as such? Explain.
 - b. Read Romans 8:28. Regardless of whether an event appears to be a blessing or not, what do we know about every event of our lives?
2. Thinking he will die soon, Abraham makes his servant swear an oath that he will not take a wife for his son Isaac from among the Canaanites. Why? What’s the harm in marrying a Canaanite? (Deuteronomy 7:3-4)
3. Nor does Abraham want Isaac to go back and settle in the land of his ancestors (verses 5-6). Why? What is it that drives Abraham? (verse 7; Hebrews 11:11–16)
4. Why does Abraham agree to release his servant from his oath (verse 8) even if the woman that the angel leads the servant to should refuse to come? Isn’t that a bit risky? (Consider Proverbs 3:5-6.) When we ask for guidance, what do we have to be sure of? (1 John 5:1, 15) Why do we sometimes forfeit the guidance we could have? (James 1:5–8; 4:2b–3)
5. Read Genesis 24:10–67. What do you notice about the way the servant prays? (verses 12–14) Do you talk to God like the servant does? Why or why not?

6. Verse 15 says that before the servant has even finished praying, Rebekah comes out. Is that just a coincidence? Do you think the servant is surprised? Colossians 4:2 tells us to be “watchful” in prayer. What does this mean to you?

7. What does the servant do when he realizes that God has brought him to the right woman? (verses 26–27) Who does the servant remind you of, and why? (John 4:32–34; 5:30b) What do 2 Corinthians 5:9 and Colossians 3:23–24 tell us about our calling?

8. What do Laban and Bethuel, Abraham’s relatives, recognize in the events that have transpired? (verse 50) If comfortable, share an event in your own life that you and others saw as clearly from the Lord.

9. Describe Rebekah’s attitude when the servant asks for water. What do her responses to leaving her family and meeting Isaac reveal about her character? (verses 17–21, 57–58, 64–65)

10. Read Genesis 25:1–18. How does the record of Ishmael’s descendants (25:13–16) demonstrate the fulfillment of God’s promise to a distraught servant woman named Hagar back in Genesis 16:10–12 and 21:18?

11. As you consider how God fulfilled the promises that he made to Abraham and his descendents, think about how God will also fulfill all the promises he has made to you. Write down one specific promise and ask God to fulfill that promise in your life, your family, and your community (If you need help finding a promise look at John 14:12–21; Romans 8:31–39).