

# 02

GENESIS 24:12-20,26-27,50-51

## GOD'S GUIDANCE



### THIS WEEK'S **focus**

In our modern world, we rely on computers for guidance and directions. If you don't know an answer, you search the internet. Need a recipe? Search the internet. Need some driving directions? Yep, there are several apps that will tell you when and where to turn to get you to your destination. Computers are great tools, but technology can only go so far. When it comes to answering the big questions in life, too often we still turn to resources other than God and His Word. However, when we come to God, prayerfully dependent on Him, He will provide the guidance and direction we seek. God directs the steps of those who seek Him.



### CENTRAL **truth**

God directs the steps of those who seek Him.



EXPLORE

# scripture

GENESIS 24:12-20,26-27,50-51

## GENESIS 24:12-14

**12** “LORD, God of my master Abraham,” he prayed, “make this happen for me today, and show kindness to my master Abraham.

**13** I am standing here at the spring where the daughters of the men of the town are coming out to draw water. **14** Let the girl to

whom I say, ‘Please lower your water jug so that I may drink,’ and who responds, ‘Drink, and I’ll water your camels also’ — let her be the one you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master.”

## GENESIS 24:15-20

**15** Before he had finished speaking, there was Rebekah — daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham’s brother Nahor — coming with a jug on her shoulder.

**16** Now the girl was very beautiful, a virgin — no man had been intimate with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jug, and came up. **17** Then the servant ran to meet her and said, “Please let me have a little water from

your jug.” **18** She replied, “Drink, my LORD.” She quickly lowered her jug to her hand and gave him a drink. **19** When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, “I’ll also draw water for your camels until they have had enough to drink.” **20** She quickly emptied her jug into the trough and hurried to the well again to draw water. She drew water for all his camels.

## GENESIS 24:26-27,50-51

**26** Then the man knelt low, worshiped the LORD, **27** and said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not withheld his kindness and faithfulness from my master. As for me, the LORD has led me on the journey to the house of my master’s

relatives.” . . . **50** Laban and Bethuel answered, “This is from the LORD; we have no choice in the matter. **51** Rebekah is here in front of you. Take her and go, and let her be a wife for your master’s son, just as the LORD has spoken.”

# 02

GENESIS 24:12-20,26-27,50-51

CONVERSATION

# questions

▶ READ GENESIS 24:12-14.

**.01** Why do you think Abraham wanted Isaac to marry someone from their family instead of from among the local people?

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**.02** What are some ways we can include God in our plans? Why is it important for us to do so?

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**.03** What are some areas of our lives in which we should be looking to God for guidance?

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## CONTEXT

There are other instances in Scripture where someone makes a very specific request of God and God responds. In the book of Judges, God calls Gideon to help rescue the nation of Israel and get them back on track with Him (see Judg. 6:11-40). God sent an angel to deliver instructions to Gideon, but after their meeting, Gideon still wasn't sure if he fully trusted God. So, he prayed and put God to a test. Gideon placed a piece of wool fleece on the floor and asked God to make the fleece wet with dew but keep the floor dry. In the morning, the floor was dry, but Gideon wrung out a full bowl of water from the fleece. Wanting to verify the result, Gideon prayed again the next night, asking God to make the floor wet but keep the fleece dry. And God did, confirming to Gideon that He could be trusted.

▶ READ GENESIS 24:15-20.

**.04** How did God confirm to Abraham's servant that Rebekah was the woman whom Isaac should marry?

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**.05** Does God care about our relationships? How do you know?

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**.06** What are some ways we can honor God with our hospitality to strangers?

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▶ READ GENESIS 24:26-27,50-51.

**.07** Why should God's activity and faithfulness lead us to worship?

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**.08** How can we know if something is from God?

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**CULTURE**

Hospitality is the practice of caring for and sharing with others—without the thought of receiving anything in return. The quality of hospitality is foundational when it comes to God's people. The *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* points out that “hospitality probably grew out of the needs of nomadic life. Since public inns were rare, a traveler had to depend on the kindness of others and had a right to expect it.”<sup>1</sup> Throughout the Bible, acts of hospitality are rewarded or held up as positive examples (see Josh. 6:22-25; 2 Sam. 9; Heb. 13:2) and breaches of hospitality are condemned and punished (see Gen. 19:1-11; Judg. 19:10-25). As believers, we are challenged to show hospitality to one another and to others (see Luke 9: 48; Rom. 12:13; Heb. 13:1-2; 1 Pet. 4:9). By doing so, we reflect the nature and character of God. He blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others.

<sup>1</sup> Lai Ling Elizabeth Ngan, “Hospitality,” in *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, ed. Chad Brand et al (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), Logos Bible Software edition, 786-87.

# 02

GENESIS 24:12-20,26-27,50-51

## NOW what?



### CENTRAL truth

God directs the steps of those who seek Him.

**.09** What are some ways that God answers prayers today? Discuss some examples.

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**.10** What are some ways we can approach God when we're seeking His wisdom and direction?

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**.11** How can God's response to the servant's prayer challenge the way we pray?

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**.12** What are some things that we might consider blessings from God? How can we use them to bless others?

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# DAILY devotions

## MEMORIZE GENESIS 24:26

### 7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

# GENESIS 24:12-14

## DWELL

Can you imagine all the incredible things Abraham's servant must have learned from him? The servant was with Abraham every day. He ran the household and had ringside seats to the life of an incredible man of God, the first patriarch of the family that would give rise to the nation of Israel. Some of that had to rub off, right? There are spiritually influential people in most of our lives, too: godly parents or grandparents, Sunday School teachers who cared about us, youth ministers who took time to invest in us, or maybe Christian neighbors who took an interest in us. We can learn a lot about walking in faith from the people who God puts around us.



What did Abraham's servant ask of God? Why did he ask for this?



Who has been an example for you of what it means to have faith and trust in God? How was this person an example?

## MEMORIZE

Write Genesis 24:26 on an index card or sticky note and attach it to your bathroom mirror. Say the verse aloud each day, emphasizing a few different words each time.

## PRAY

Thank God for anyone who has been a spiritual example and influence in your life. Pray that you would be a positive influence on someone else's faith this week.





day 2

# GENESIS 24:15-20

## DWELL

Abraham’s servant asked for something very specific from God . . . and then it happened. That’s crazy! While in most cases the Bible discourages asking God for a specific sign like this, it’s a good idea to ask God for wisdom and direction when you have an important decision to make. His guidance could come in the form of new opportunities (or an opportunity that goes away), a sense of peace or uncertainty, or someone saying something specific to you. God still interacts with His children in these ways today; you just need to be open to His leading and ask Him to give you wisdom (check out James 1:5).

↑ What were the signs that God heard the servant’s prayer and responded to it?

→ What do Rebekah’s actions tell you about her? How can you follow her example?

## MEMORIZE

Save Genesis 24:26 as a wallpaper or screensaver on your phone or computer. Read it aloud each time you see it.

## PRAY

Tell God about an important decision you need to make and ask for His guidance and help in the situation.

day 3

# GENESIS 24:26-27

## DWELL

What do you think when you hear the words “kindness” and “faithfulness”? When Abraham’s servant blessed the Lord for His kindness and faithfulness, he meant that God had followed through on His promises by delivering something good and beneficial—Rebekah. When God provided Rebekah to be Isaac’s future wife, He provided more than anyone could imagine, and the servant’s response was to worship. When God provides in response to our prayers, our natural response should be worship as well. Our worship is a recognition that God is the One who provides everything we need.

↑ What do you learn about God in these verses?

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↪ What is God doing in your life right now that should lead you to worship Him?

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## MEMORIZE

Say the book, chapter, and verse number for Genesis 24:26 out loud several times. Then read aloud just the first few words of the verse. Do this a few times a day and see if you can memorize more each time.

## PRAY

Thank God for His faithfulness to you in answering prayer. Take a few minutes to reflect on specific answers God has provided to your prayers. Then spend a few moments worshipping Him for His kindness and faithfulness to you.

day 4

# GENESIS 24:50-51

## DWELL

Recognizing when God is at work is important. Laban (Rebekah's brother) and Bethuel (her father) knew it was God at work after they heard everything that Abraham's servant described. Who could argue that God definitely had something to do with this? Sometimes it's obvious when God is at work. Learning to recognize those moments and attribute them to God is an important part of growing in your relationship with God. Be on the lookout for Him to be working around you—even inside your heart and mind.

↓ How did Laban and Bethuel demonstrate their faith in God?

→ How can you learn to tell if something is coming from the Lord?

## MEMORIZE

Write out Genesis 24:26 on a piece of paper. Circle three to five key words in the verse and consider their importance. Focus on those words and see how much of the verse you can speak from memory.

## PRAY

Ask God to reveal Himself and His work in your life and in the lives of those around you. Then take some time to publicly acknowledge God for His work.

day 5

# GENESIS 24:63-67

## DWELL

When Abraham's servant brought Rebekah back to their camp, she and Isaac were instantly drawn to each other. This is a beautiful love story, though the cultural context is hard for us to understand today. Arranged marriages were a part of life for the men and the women in those days. God was directing the search, however, and He provided the kind of wife that Abraham wanted for his son, the type he knew was necessary for his family to continue following the Lord. God desires to bless His children, even with the right relationships that help to achieve His plan.

← What did the servant share with Isaac that convinced Isaac this was the Lord's doing?

↔ How can your "God story" impact someone else? How has it already impacted someone?

## MEMORIZE

Read Genesis 24:26 several times. Then start by trying to memorize the first two or three words. Once you have those words memorized, add a few more words at a time until you can say the whole verse.

## PRAY

Ask God to point out any areas of your life that are not demonstrating your faith nor reflecting your relationship with Him. Tell Him about your desire to reflect Him to others.