

Genesis 24 is the final faith step we see Abraham taking before he dies (chapter 25). As the story of Genesis progresses, we see Abraham being blessed, acquiring a small portion of land (chapter 23), and the start of a long line of descendants (Isaac). However, in order to amass offspring as numerous as the stars in the sky, Abraham needs a wife for his son, Isaac.

Genesis 24:1-67

A

Wife

for Isaac

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

When reading historical narrative in God's Word, it's easy to forget there are lessons gleaned, alongside the progression of the story being told. While the genre is one read as *descriptive*, we ought to look for principles hidden that are *prescriptive*, those readily found in the epistles of the New Testament that show us how we are to live.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

HOW does a story shared (oral or written) help you remember or understand lessons taught?

WHY do you think the art of story-telling is helpful in learning?

CAN you think of a way Jesus told stories that facilitated better learning in His ministry?

WHERE in Genesis thus far, have you learned principles for living from the narrative being told? **WHAT** were some of those lessons you most recently gleaned?

Genesis 24:1-67 Read Genesis 24:1-67

A Wife for Isaac

OBSERVATION

What does Abraham request of his servant on behalf of his son (vs. 1-9)?

Where does the servant go and at what time (vs. 11)?

In vs. 12-14, what does the servant pray for, specifically?

Who shows up at the well and how is she described in vs. 15-16?

Describe what she does that causes the servant to gaze in silence.

In vs. 23, who does the woman say she belongs to?

Who does the text say is the woman's brother (vs. 29)?

According to vs. 50, how do the woman's brother and dad respond to the servant's request for the young lady? How about later in vs. 55?

In vs. 58, how does this young woman feel about going to meet Isaac?

As the passage ends, what can you observe about the relationship between Isaac and his new bride in vs. 62-67?

INTERPRETATION

Why is it so important to Abraham that a wife not be taken from the Canaanites for his son Isaac? Consider Numbers 25:1-3, Ezra 9:1-5. Does this principle still hold today? See 2 Corinthians 6:14.

Why is it also so important to Abraham that his son and wife not go back to live in the land he is from? See Genesis 12:1-3.

What can we conclude about Rebekah's character from her interactions with Abraham's servant in 17-25?

Why might Laban, Bethuel, and Rebekah's mother have changed their minds from vs. 50-51 to vs. 55?

What do you notice about the blessing Rebekah receives in vs. 60? How does this relate to Gen. 22:17?

What do we know about the location Isaac is at in vs. 62? Consider the meaning of this place in 16:13-14.

According to vs. 62-63 and the end of vs. 67, what might we conclude about Isaac's attitude at this time?

From this section alone, how might you describe Isaac and Rebekah's marriage?

APPLICATION

What *prescriptive* lessons can be gleaned from this *descriptive* passage of Scripture?