

Bible Essentials

Scripture Passage: Genesis 24:32-51

As a group, share something about your past week. For example, share prayer requests and answers to prayer. Share the best and worst moments of your week (highs and lows). Write prayer requests here. Open with prayer for these requests and for God to open your hearts to this week's study.

If you are married, how did you meet your spouse?

Read today's passage. Discuss your initial impressions of the passage. Write any major points here.

Here is some context for Genesis 24:32-51.

The last time we studied Abraham, we were in Genesis 22. In that chapter, God asked Abraham to offer Isaac as a burnt offering. Isaac was the son that God had promised to Abraham and Sarah, and they waited 25 years for that promise to be fulfilled. Yet now, God was asking Abraham to kill that long-awaited-for son. Completely trusting in God, Abraham did as God asked. He took Isaac up on a mountain and prepared to offer him as a burnt offering to God. As Abraham was about to kill his son, an angel of the Lord called out to him to stop him. Abraham had passed God's test. God spared Isaac's life and gave Abraham a ram to sacrifice instead.

At the end of Genesis 22, we are told that Abraham's brother Nahor had several sons, one of whom became the father of Rebekah. Then in Genesis 23, we learn that Sarah died at the age of 127. So Abraham bought a field with a cave—the owner wanted to gift it to him, but Abraham insisted on buying it—to bury his wife Sarah. Now, in Abraham's old age, he is ready to make sure that Isaac has a good wife. So he sends his servant to his brother Nahor's house to find Isaac a wife. We pick up in the middle of that story.

What are your thoughts about the context? Discuss the context as a group. Write some key points here.

Read the passage again. Use a different Bible version if you have one available. Have someone summarize the passage in their own words, and use this space to record that summary.

Look closely at the passage and answer the following questions as a group. Write notes in the space provided.

What does the passage say about God?

What does the passage say about people?

What does the passage say about God's plan?

What else strikes you about this passage?

Understanding how a passage fits into the overarching story of the Bible is important.

Throughout the Bible, God makes it clear that the Israelites were not to marry outside the Israelite community. The main reason for this is that people from other nations do not follow God but instead follow other gods. If the Israelites marry outside their own people, then those false gods are introduced into their lives, and they tend to go astray. This happened repeatedly in the Bible. By finding a wife for Isaac from within their own family, Abraham could be more assured that the woman would follow the one true God and would not lead Isaac astray to follow other gods. This was important for maintaining the integrity of the Israelite faith, especially during these early years when Abraham's line and the Israelites were being established as a nation.

What are your thoughts on how this passage fits into the overarching story of the Bible? Discuss as a group. What questions do you have individually or as a group? Discuss potential answers.

As a group, use the following questions to apply today's Scripture passage to your life.

How does this passage affect how you view God?

How does this passage affect how you view yourself?

How does this passage affect how you will live your life?

Close in prayer, asking God to help you apply what you learned today.