

OCF Small Groups: *passionately pursuing God, healthy relationships with each other, and people who don't know Jesus, as part of a Gospel Community.*

Genesis 24: 1 – 25: 18

(Sunday, January 24)

1. Pick one (or all!) to discuss:
 - a. In high school, what hang out did you frequent in your hometown to meet people of the opposite sex?
 - b. What memories do you have of going on a blind date?
 - c. If you were to choose a spouse for your son or daughter, what kind would you choose?
2. What do you find most compelling about Abraham's servant: His earnest piety? Transparent faith? Practical methods? Devotion to his master? Firm resolve? Or something else? Explain.
3.
 - a. What does this story teach us about how our faith in God extends to and affects the lives of those around us (vv. 6 – 7; 12)?
 - b. How can your faith be an encouragement for another and give that person the strength to accomplish a difficult task or endure a challenging time?
4.
 - a. How is God's hand evident in the story of Isaac and Rebekah, such that all could rightly conclude, "This is from the Lord" (v. 50)?
 - b. How applicable do you think the servant's method is for knowing God's will today? When, for example, have you prayed a similar prayer asking God for a particular sign? How appropriate is this way of praying?
 - c. The servant did not ask for a vision or miraculous event but for guidance through clear signs in natural circumstances. When has God guided you this way?

5.
 - a. If the central issue in this story is an all-knowing, all-powerful, all-loving God working in and through the lives of his covenant people, how does this affect your faith in that God? How is God guiding you to be a part of his purposes?
 - b. Likewise, when you hear how God has worked in the lives of your friends, how does that affect your faith?
 - c. In turn how has your "God story" affected another's faith recently? With whom will share your story this week?

6.
 - a. Note Abraham's concern about intermarriage (24: 7) and yet he practiced polygamy (25: 1-4) when God's intention was monogamy (see 2: 24). Similar to Abraham, what cultural customs do Christians practice or take for granted but conflict with God's intentions?
 - b. Why did God send all of Abraham's sons but Isaac away from His covenant people (25: 6,18)? How was this necessary to His plan?
 - c. What is the most important lesson you have learned from Abraham's life?

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION Genesis 24: 50

Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, "The thing has come from the LORD; we cannot speak to you bad or good.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank you that your plans and purposes will prevail. Teach me how to trust you and seek your will. Help me to never compromise but walk by faith. Give me eyes to see how you move and to see what only comes from you. Show me how to always follow your ways – in Jesus name I pray, AMEN.