

God Provides Isaac's Wife, Rebekah

Genesis 24

Read Genesis 24:1-14.

Abraham's servant pledged and prayerfully pursued a wife for Isaac.

- How did Abraham reassure his servant of God's guidance for finding Isaac a wife?
- What do you learn about God in this Scripture passage?

Principle: God guides us as we pray.

Read Genesis 24:15-51.

Abraham's servant and her family confirmed God's choice of Rebekah as Isaac's wife.

- What confirmation did the servant experience in answer to his prayers?
- What situation have you prayed about that requires you to take some action?

Principle: God keeps our focus on Him through prayer.

Read Genesis 24:52-67.

Abraham's servant and Rebekah quickly depart for Isaac and the marriage.

- How did Isaac live according to his faith in God and His guidance?
- How does Isaac's example encourage you to prayerfully wait for God's way and timing?

Principle: God guides those who trust Him.

Review Genesis 24.

- When has God's will for another cost you something? How has God cared for you at that time as well?

Main truth: God guides those who trust Him.

Scripture Memory Verse

"Then he prayed, 'LORD, God of my master Abraham, make me successful today, and show kindness to my master Abraham.' " – Genesis 24:12

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Exploring the Christian Faith

An Attribute of God

from this week's passage

Accessible

From the beginning when God made Adam and Eve, He was accessible or near. In the covenant God made with the patriarchs, He promised to be in relationship with them always. Later God commanded the people to build the tabernacle so He could live among them. God made Himself even nearer to people when He became a man, the Lord Jesus Christ, the true tabernacle. Now He is accessible in the most intimate way possible. His Spirit lives in every believer. Whenever you pray, He hears you.

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A Basic Truth of the Christian Faith

What is prayer?

Prayer is talking with God¹ by praising Him, thanking Him, confessing our sins, and asking Him for our needs and desires.² The Bible shows us what to pray for and the Holy Spirit helps and teaches us to pray.³ God always hears the prayers of His children and answers with what we need at the right time.⁴

Matthew 6:9-13¹; Philippians 4:6²; Romans 8:26³; James 5:16⁴

Think About It

Are there special prayers I need to learn?

We do not need to pray special prayers for God to hear us. The Holy Spirit helps God's children cry out to our heavenly Father, even when we cannot find the right words (Romans 8:15). The Holy Spirit takes our imperfect words and speaks them perfectly to God (Romans 8:26-27). The Bible offers good examples of prayer, such as the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), Paul's prayers (Ephesians 3:16-21) and many Psalms (Psalm 51). Praying written prayers can help us fellowship with God when our minds think about the words and our hearts connect with Him. It does no good to repeat words we do not understand or believe.

Does God hear all people when they pray, whether they are His children or not?

God hears all cries to Him, but only His children have confidence that He delights in their prayers and is eager to answer (Psalm 62:8). God hears His children's prayers because of who Jesus is and what He has done for them (Hebrews 4:14-16). When we pray in Jesus' name, we can expect God to hear us (Ephesians 3:11-12). Obeying God and believing God will answer our prayers is an essential part of true faith (Hebrews 11:6; James 5:16).

Is prayer necessary if God already knows what He is going to do?

The Bible clearly teaches that God's people should pray. Jesus commands us to pray (Matthew 9:37-38) and gives us the example of prayer (Mark 1:35-38). Jesus tells us the Father gives good gifts to those who ask Him (Matthew 7:11). The New Testament says there are some things we do not have because we do not ask God with right motives (James 4:2-3). God uses our prayers to accomplish His will (Isaiah 37:21-22, 26). He brings about great change in response to our prayers (Genesis 18:22-33; Nehemiah 2:4-8; Acts 4:23-31; 10:31-33). In prayer, God allows us to be involved in His work that will go on forever (Matthew 6:9-10). Answered prayer gives God glory.

To learn more Basic Truths of the Christian Faith, visit mybsf.org.