

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Family ...why bother?

OPENING UP



Share a story of a way that God provided for you or someone that you know.

TEXT



Providential Provision | Genesis 24

Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, “Put your hand under my thigh, that I may make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac.” The servant said to him, “Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?” Abraham said to him, “See to it that you do not take my son back there. The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, ‘To your offspring I will give this land,’ he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there.” So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter.

Turn to the ESV Bible to continue reading v. 10-67.

MESSAGE OUTLINE



Big Idea: God is providentially working in everyday life.

1. Trust the promises of God. (v. 7)
2. Seek the provision of God. (vv. 11-14)
3. Obey the plan of God. (vv. 57-61)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- God worked providentially throughout Abraham's life. Where do you see God working providentially in your life, now or in the past?
- Abraham's faith was grounded in his belief in the promises of God (see Hebrews 11:8-10). What are the promises of God you are currently believing? If you are struggling to trust the promises of God, why is that?
- Abraham's servant sought God's provision regarding which woman he should approach to be Isaac's wife (v. 12-14). What does it look like for you to seek God's guidance in your everyday life, your family, your marriage, your business your etc.? Are you seeking the provision of God or trying to do it on your own? How can we pray together for God's provision in a specific area?
- Both Abraham's servant and Rebekah obeyed God when he made his plans known (v. 57-61). How are you doing obeying the plan of God for your life and in your family situation?

LIFE CHALLENGE



Even when it was hard and overwhelming Jesus still obeyed. Always. Overwhelmed with the path of the cross before him, Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done" (Luke 22:42).

Think of one person in your life that does not know Jesus. What is one way that you can respond to God with obedience in this relationship, even when it's hard and overwhelming? Let's be people that respond to the plan of God with "not my will, but yours be done" and allow God to use us to change the world.

CLOSING PRAYER



Lord, you are the God who keeps his promises and provides for our every need. Open our eyes to see the ways that you are providentially working in our lives every day. When it comes to the circumstances and relationships in our lives, may we live by faith in your promises and trust you to provide in practical ways. And help us to obey you even when it's hard, just like Jesus did. We are grateful that his perfect record of obedience covers our sin and that your Spirit moves us to walk in your ways. Amen.