

SMALL GROUPS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Spring Semester - Week 1

Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, skip the ones that are not, and let the conversation flow naturally.

OPTIONAL ICEBREAKER(S)

- a) What is your favourite supporting character in any movie or show?
- b) If you have a significant other, tell the story of how you met.

PASSAGE AND DISCUSSION

Read Genesis 24

- a) What stands out to you upon first reading of this passage?
- b) How does it make you feel to think about history in terms of a two hour movie - and you only get 2 seconds?
- c) How does the process of finding a wife for Isaac in Genesis 24 reflect cultural traditions of the time? How does it compare to modern customs of marriage and courtship?
- d) Compare and contrast the concept of arranged marriage presented in Genesis 24 with modern notions of love marriage. What are the benefits and challenges of each approach?
- e) Why do you think that Abraham was so set against Isaac marrying someone from Canaan? Why is it better that his wife comes from his own family line?
- f) Read **v2**. Why does Abraham send his CEO, or senior servant, rather than a lower-level servant to find Isaac a wife?
- g) Discuss the character of Abraham's servant. What qualities stand out to you throughout this chapter?
- h) Read **v12**. Abraham's servant, Eliezer, prayed first, before he began his search. Why is it important to be people who pray right away, and not simply as a last resort? How / when do you typically pray?
- i) Discuss the theme of divine providence in this chapter. How does God intervene in the story, particularly in the matchmaking process of Isaac and Rebekah?

- j) What is accomplished in the repetition of this passage? What was its purpose at the time, and what role does repetition play in the way it has been read and applied over the millennia since?
- k) Eliezer takes the opportunity to share the story of what God had done at various points in the passage. How are stories a great way to introduce people to God and/or your experience of Him?
- l) When was the last time you shared what God has done in your life with others?
- m) Look at **v50-61**. Analyze the dynamics within Rebekah's family. How do they respond to the servant's proposal, and what does it reveal about their values and priorities?
- n) At the end of the passage, we see that God granted Eliezer success on his mission - and the result will prove to be bigger than he knew. How do you think the little things in your life may be contributing to something much bigger that God is accomplishing in His world?

TAKE IT HOME (OPTIONAL IDEAS FOR RESPONSE THIS WEEK)

- a) Think back to the ways God has worked in your life, and write them down. (aka: Write down your testimony).
- b) Consider encouraging someone this week, by sharing with them, the story of what God has done for you.

OPTIONAL IDEAS FOR PRAYER TIME

- a) Pray that God would use your "2 minutes" in the story to glorify Himself.
- b) Pray for Moe Feakes and House of Hesed, as they care for those with HIV/Aids. Pray that God's love would be evident to their tenants.