

TEXT: Genesis 23-25

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **RSVP for Sunday Now** - The RSVP for next Sunday's services at 8:00AM, 9:30AM, and 11 AM are now open. Make sure to RSVP every week that you would like to attend a service. And don't forget that we have the K-2 room in the 11 AM service! The RSVP forms will close on Saturday at 5PM. RSVP now at redeemerchurch.com/regathering
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BIG IDEA: God is with His people in the peaks and the valleys.

Read Genesis 23:1-6

1. Abram buries his wife Sarah, and Abraham, the man of faith, wept. He grieved the death of his wife, and his grief continued for a long time. Believers grieve. Mourning is not a sign of weak faith. We mourn and grieve, but with hope. **What is the difference between godly grief and worldly grief? How can we, as a community, help one another mourn and grieve with hope?**

Read Genesis 24:1-4

2. Throughout the Old and New Testament God's people are constantly warned against relationships with unbelievers. Abraham did not want Isaac to marry a Canaanite not because of any racial reasons but because of faith reasons. The Canaanite women were all pagans—not worshippers of the One, True, and Living God. **What would be the problem if two people with opposing faith and worldview, are joined and married together?**

Read Genesis 24:5-9

3. Biblical obedience is marked by doing what you know in the face of the unknown. Doing the one thing you know to be right, even when you don't know what comes next. That's what Abraham is doing. **How has this past year, with all of its unknowns and complexities, grown or challenged you in your obedience to Jesus?**

Read Genesis 24:10-14

4. A lot of us make our decisions by "laying out our fleece," instead of searching the Scriptures, asking the Spirit for insight, and seeking help from God's people. But, laying out your "fleece" to test God or barter with him, is a bad thing. It expresses unbelief rather than belief. **How can we discern God's will?**

Read Genesis 24:15-21

5. God answered Abraham's prayer that his son, Isaac, would have a godly spouse. Parents, you should be praying, daily, for God to provide the right spouse for your child. They may be single their entire lives. That's great—the Apostle Paul said that was a good thing. But, you should pray that if they are to be married that God provides them a godly spouse. **Why is it important for parents to pray daily for God to provide the right spouse for their child?**

Read Genesis 24:61-67

6. In a very short window of time - Isaac experiences deep loss, grief, heartache...and then love, comfort, companionship. God was with Isaac in the valley of grief and he is with Isaac on the peak of finding love. These are real people whose lives are just as complicated as yours. God's blessing and presence has been consistent in the lives of Abraham's family through the peaks and the valleys. **How does this encourage or give you hope as you face 2021 with all of its unknowns?**

Read Genesis 25:7-11

7. Years after Isaac is married—Abraham dies. Abraham has lived a tumultuous life. It's been full of lying, manipulation, abuse, etc. except for the last few decades. It seems that from shortly after that birth of Isaac onward, Abraham is a changed man. God is with us in the highs and the lows. In the peaks and the valleys of Abraham's life. The same is true for the believer. **How does this truth comfort or challenge you?**