

## **Love Stories— Dating Without the Drama**

*For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. ...*

1 Corinthians 14:33 ESV

### **How Do You Date in a Way That Honors God?**

#### **1. Start with God's standards.**

*Abraham was now very old, and the LORD had blessed him in every way. <sup>2</sup>He said to the senior servant in his household, the one in charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh. <sup>3</sup>I want you to swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living, <sup>4</sup>but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac."*

Genesis 24:1-4 NIV

**It's better to wait for the right one than to marry the wrong one.**

*Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. ...*2 Corinthians 6:14 NIV

**You can't go to God for guidance together if one of you doesn't go to God at all.**

*How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?*

1 Corinthians 7:16 NIV

#### **2. Pray before you pursue.**

*Then he prayed ...* Genesis 24:12 NIV

*Then he prayed, "LORD, God of my master Abraham, make me successful today, and show kindness to my master Abraham."*

Genesis 24:12 NIV

### **3. Pay attention to patterns, not just potential.**

*Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. ... <sup>17</sup>The servant hurried to meet her and said, “Please give me a little water from your jar.” <sup>18</sup>“Drink, my lord,” she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink.*

Genesis 24:15, 17-18 NIV

### **Character is revealed in patterns, not promises.**

*After she had given him a drink, she said, “I’ll draw water for your camels too, until they have had enough to drink.” <sup>20</sup>So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, ran back to the well to draw more water, and drew enough for all his camels. Genesis 24:19-20 NIV*

## **TALK IT OVER**

What standards and values do you have for your relationships? How does your faith influence your answer?

Read **Genesis 24:15, 17-20**. What do you notice about Rebekah’s character based on her actions? What do the actions of the people closest to you reveal about their character?

What do you hope your life will look like 10 years from now? What steps can you take this week to pursue God and build a foundation for the legacy you hope to accomplish?