

## Group Discussion Guide

1) What most impacted you from Sunday's message and why?

2) Abraham demonstrates his confidence in God's guidance during an uncertain time in his life when he declares to his lead servant that God will "send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there" (Gen. 24:7).

- Share a time when God guided you through an uncertain season, maybe one where you weren't even aware at the time that he was actually guiding you.
- What are your particular struggles with trusting God—believing confidently in his guidance—when you can't see it or sense it?

3) Abraham's servant, trusting that God listens to those who call on him, gave the second recorded prayer in the Bible in Genesis 24:12-14:

*<sup>12</sup> Then he prayed, "Lord, God of my master Abraham, make me successful today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. <sup>13</sup> See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. <sup>14</sup> May it be that when I say to a young woman, 'Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too'—let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master."*

Read and discuss the following quotes by C.S. Lewis:

"He has infinite attention to spare for each one of us. He does not have to deal with us in the mass. You are as much alone with Him as if you were the only being He had ever created."

— C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

"We must lay before him what is in us; not what ought to be in us."

— C.S. Lewis, *Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer*

4) Sadly, by the end of their lives, Isaac and Rebekah become more of a cautionary tale than an inspirational one. God still accomplishes his purposes through them—but it's in spite of their choices and devotion, not because of it.

- Is there an area of issue of obedience or faithfulness to God where you've let your trust and commitment slide? Or, maybe one where you know you've never really been faithful to God?
- The hardest areas to fully follow God *tend* to be related to community (truly being open and honest with who we are and building genuine Christian friendships), servanthood (serving others in our church and beyond simply because there's a need), and generosity (living below our means, giving consistently, regularly, and at an obedient level, and giving sacrificially above and beyond at times). Is there one or more of these that you need to recommit to God? Will you?