

I WILL GO

MAIN POINT.

Because God always provides, we can **confidently follow** Him anywhere.



CHRIST CONNECTION

By providing for Isaac, God revealed His faithfulness: He would continue to fulfill His covenant promises to Abraham and build him into a great nation. This promise would be completely fulfilled in the birth of Jesus, who would establish God's family as those who trust in Him for salvation.



This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to read all of the content on the timeline as you prepare to teach.

Genesis 24:1**Genesis 24:67****WE CAN BE CONFIDENT IN GOD'S PROVISION****GENESIS 24:34,37-38,42-46,48**

34 So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. . . . 37 My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell, 38 but you shall go to my father's house and to my clan and take a wife for my son.'" . . . 42 "I came today to the spring and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you are prospering the way that I go, 43 behold, I am standing by the spring of water. Let the virgin who comes out to draw water, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," 44 and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also," let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.' 45 Before I had finished speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah came out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew water. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' 46 She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will give your camels drink also.' So I drank, and she gave the camels drink also. . . . 48 Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son."

WE CAN CONFIDENTLY GO WHERE GOD LEADS**GENESIS 24:55-61,63-67**

55 Her brother and her mother said, "Let the young woman remain with us a while, at least ten days; after that she may go." 56 But he said to them, "Do not delay me." . . . 57 They said, "Let us call the young woman and ask her." 58 And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will go." 59 So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men. 60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "Our sister, may you become thousands of ten thousands, and may your offspring possess the gate of those who hate him!" 61 Then Rebekah and her young women arose and rode on the camels and followed the man. Thus the servant took Rebekah and went his way. . . . 63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening. And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there were camels coming. 64 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel 65 and said to the servant, "Who is that man, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. 66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. 67 Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

BEFORE YOU TEACH

MAIN POINT.

Leaders: Thank you for preparing to teach God's Word. As you do, may He teach you new and wonderful truths (Ps. 119:18).

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BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

WE CAN BE CONFIDENT IN GOD'S PROVISION

GENESIS 24:34-51

"God was the sole cause of all the events of the story. Eliezer wanted to make sure everyone understood that, even before he sat down to eat. His words, 'The LORD has shown unfailing love and faithfulness ... for he has led me' (24:27), form the theological message of the chapter. And this message is revealed throughout the Bible. Even Laban had to acknowledge that this was the Lord's doing (24:50-51). Believers can trust in the leading of the Lord because he is sovereign in all things, and he never leaves his people to their own devices to carry on the work of the covenant."¹³

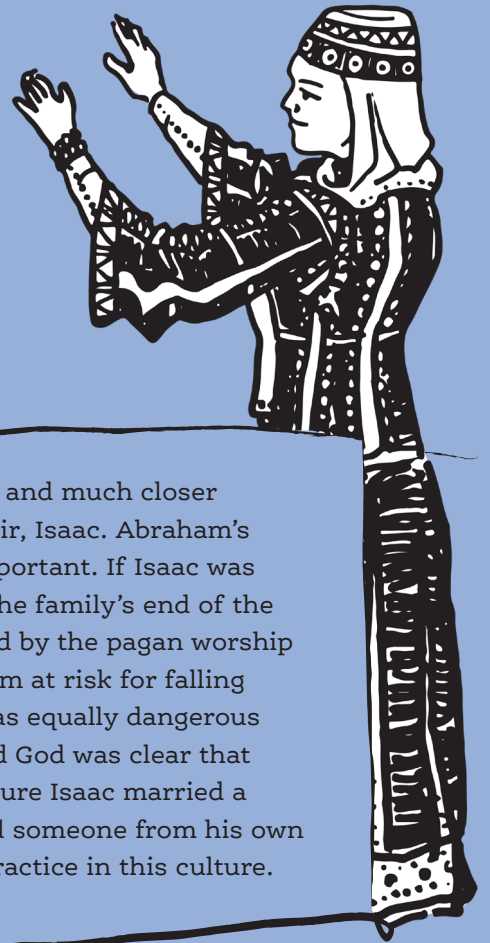
"If this chief servant was Eliezer, he showed great loyalty and grace in serving the heir who displaced him. Kidner calls Eliezer 'one of the most attractive minor characters in the Bible, with his quiet good sense, his piety and faith, his devotion to his employer and his firmness in seeing the matter through' (Kidner, 146)."¹⁴

WE CAN CONFIDENTLY GO WHERE GOD LEADS

GENESIS 24:55-67

"In this chapter the participants were all acting with faithfulness and loyalty to God and his covenant with Abraham. Abraham was faithful to the covenant by preparing for the future for Isaac. The servant was faithful in carrying out the mission perfectly, without diversion, and ensuring that God got all the glory. Rebekah already began to display faithful love to the servant, his family, and ultimately to Isaac by going to be his wife and be a part of this blessed family. But behind it all, God was displaying his faithful covenant love for the family and his plan by bringing all these things together. In his providence and by his faithful love, God sovereignly worked behind the scenes."¹⁵

CONTEXT



At this point in the biblical narrative, Abraham was older and much closer to death. His priority was to find a faithful wife for his heir, Isaac. Abraham's insistence that Isaac must not marry a Canaanite was important. If Isaac was to continue his father's legacy of faith in God and fulfill the family's end of the Abrahamic covenant, then he must not become distracted by the pagan worship of Canaan. Marrying into this pagan culture would put him at risk for falling victim to idolatry. Isaac returning to Abraham's family was equally dangerous because he may be tempted to stay with his relatives, and God was clear that Canaan was to be home. Instead, Abraham wanted to ensure Isaac married a woman who followed Yahweh and sent his servant to find someone from his own family. It's important to note that this was an accepted practice in this culture.

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

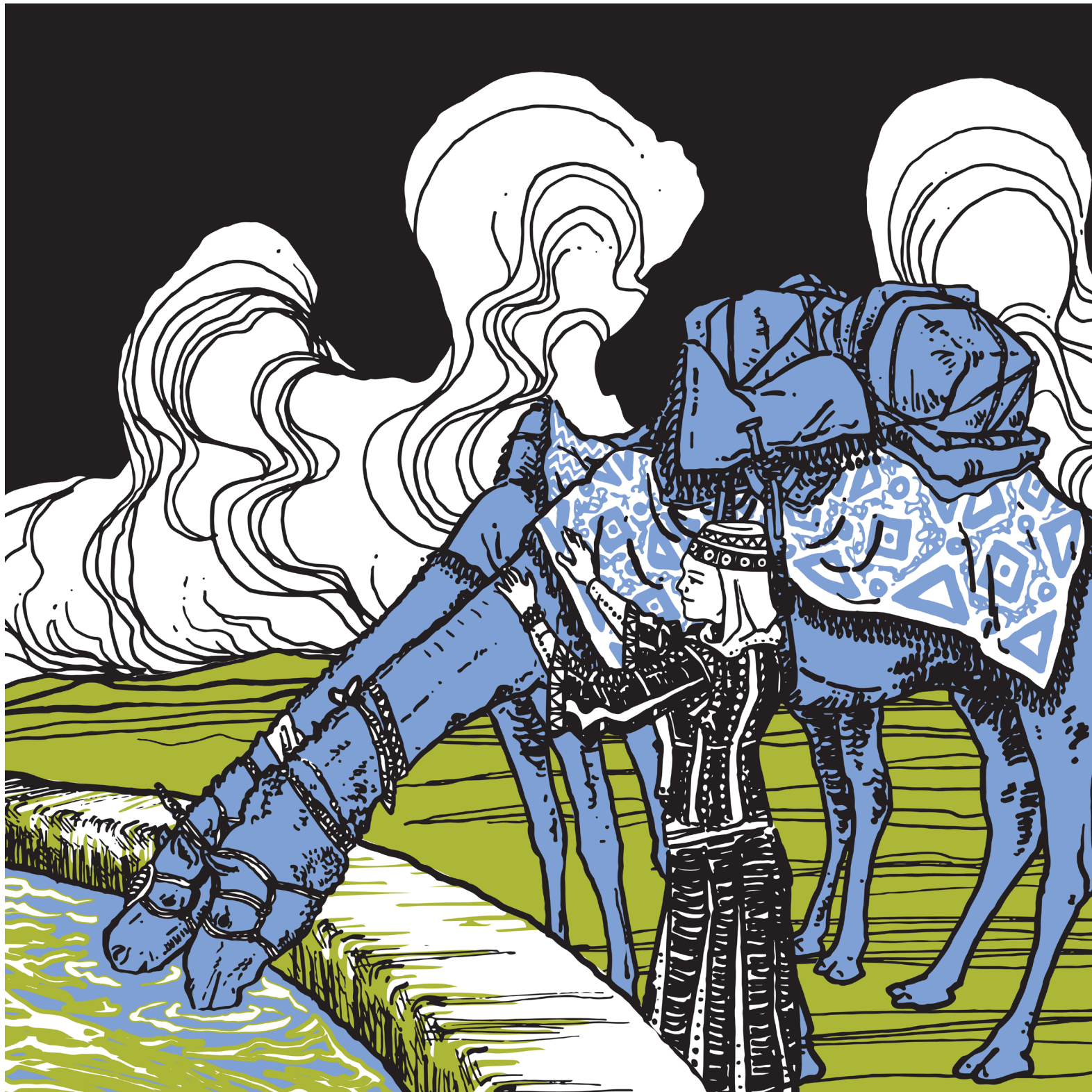


God's providence

Providence refers to God's continuing work and **involvement in His creation**. This includes, in various degrees, God's preservation of the created order, His governance, and His care for His people (Gen. 8:21-22; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3). Christians believe the world, and even the cosmos itself, is incapable of existing apart from God. Christians also believe in God's **personal and direct intervention in the world**—as opposed to a hands-off approach to creation—that affects not only the natural order but also the individuals and events within human history.

LEADER'S PRAYER

GOD, YOU ARE A PROVIDER, AND WE KNOW
THAT WE CAN TRUST YOUR GUIDANCE IN OUR
LIVES AND IN OUR STUDENTS' LIVES.



KICK STARTER

♡ HEARTCHECK

When did you feel like your faith was tested this week? How'd you do?
Did knowing God tests you because He loves you affect the way you
approach obedience?

These optional activities are designed to help your students interact. You'll find a Discussion Activity and a Cultural Connection, which touches on a relevant topic in today's teen culture. Each group is different, so adapt these activities to fit your group's needs. The goal is for students to connect more to the lesson as they connect to the topic and to one another.

1

GUT CHECK

SUPPLIES LIST: NONE

Ask the following questions, allowing time for students to share responses.

- **DESCRIBE A TIME WHEN YOU FELT IN YOUR GUT THAT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO DO SOMETHING, GO SOMEWHERE, OR SAY SOMETHING TO SOMEONE?**
- **HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DO SOMETHING?**
- **DO YOU THINK GOD CARES ABOUT YOUR SMALL DECISIONS?**

It can be really difficult to know if what you're feeling is from God. And it can also sometimes feel like He doesn't really care about the small details of your life. But He does. Prayer is an important factor in determining what God wants you to do or where He wants you to go. It's your direct line to communicate with God and to ask for His guidance.

2

CULTURAL CONNECTION

A big part of faith is putting it into action. Would it be faith if we didn't? It's one thing to say we have faith when all of our plans are working out or when life feels easy. But it's another thing to follow God's lead when it seems to take us places we don't want to go or when it presses us to do something we don't want to do. So, what makes it possible to have faith in those times? How can we say yes even when it seems scary? By trusting in God's provision. We trust that He has provided, He is providing, and He will provide, no matter where He leads us and no matter what He asks of us. God isn't distant; He is directly involved in even the smallest details of your life. As you give your yes to God, you can know you're under His provision. Every detail in your life, the good ones and the difficult ones, can work for your good because of His active work.

DISCUSSION

MAIN POINT.

WE CAN BE CONFIDENT IN GOD'S PROVISION

READ GENESIS 24:34,37-38,42-46,48



WHY DID ABRAHAM INSIST THAT ISAAC NOT MARRY A CANAANITE WOMAN?

Though Canaan was the promised land, the culture was pagan. The people worshiped other gods and committed idolatry. If Isaac married a Canaanite, he would likely be drawn into this way of life. Over time, Isaac's children and their children would move further away from God. **Isaac needed to marry a woman who believed in Yahweh to continue the faith legacy, which would ultimately lead to the birth of the Messiah.**

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WHY COULDN'T ISAAC GO BACK TO ABRAHAM'S HOMELAND HIMSELF? WHAT WAS THE DANGER?

When God calls us away from somewhere, it's not always safe to return. For Isaac, returning to Abraham's homeland could entice him to stay. God was clear that Abraham and his descendants would inherit Canaan, and this is where they were to live. **Practically, it's difficult to move forward when we're returning to the places God has called us to leave.**

WHAT ROLE DID *PRAYER* PLAY IN THE SERVANT'S SEARCH? DOES PRAYER PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN YOUR DECISIONS?

Abraham's servant prayed fervently for God to lead his steps. He was even bold enough to ask God for a specific situation so that he would know for sure who the right woman was for Isaac. He understood the magnitude of the moment. He had made an oath to his master, but he depended on God to make it happen. He wasn't going to manufacture his own outcome. Before the servant could even finish his prayer, God was already answering it. It was customary for women to go to the well to fetch water for their families each day, but to water ten camels would require a woman to make countless trips to the well. In asking this, the servant asked for a woman who was kind, compassionate, and hospitable. Most often, we don't follow this model. **Instead, we formulate our own plans and then ask God to bless them instead of asking Him to make His will clear to us.**

WE CAN CONFIDENTLY GO WHERE GOD LEADS

READ GENESIS 24:55-61,63-67



DEFINE PROVIDENCE. WHERE DO YOU SEE GOD'S PROVIDENCE IN THIS STORY?

Providence is God's involvement and work in His creation and in our lives. **God isn't distant. He is actively involved in our lives and working to bring about His plans for us.** It was God's continued work that aligned all of the circumstances for the servant to intersect with Rebekah at the well. God is at work in your life too. And through prayer and the leading of the Holy Spirit, we can be aware of His loving involvement in the big stuff and in the small stuff of our daily lives.

WHY DO YOU THINK REBEKAH WAS SO WILLING TO GO? WHAT DOES THIS SHOW ABOUT HER FAITH?

After hearing the servant's story, Rebekah couldn't deny God's work. Although she didn't have all the answers, she displayed strong faith and detected the urgency to return to Canaan. **It's apparent that Rebekah had already been practicing dependence on God for direction in her life.**

WHY DO WE LACK CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S PLANS? WHAT DOES THIS CAUSE US TO DO?

There are a few reasons we lack confidence in God's plans: **We've already determined our own plans, and we cling so tightly to them that we resist anything else. Or our faith is weak. We forget to remember how God has been faithful in the past, and we doubt He will be faithful now or in the future.** When this happens, we take matters in our own hands. We manipulate situations and try to control the outcome rather than opening our hands and trusting God to take us where He wants us to go.

WRAP-UP

HOW CAN LOOKING BACK AT GOD'S FAITHFULNESS HELP YOU IN THE PRESENT?

Throughout Scripture, God tells His people to remember; He urges them to recall all of the ways He led them to freedom (Ex. 13:3, 19:4; Deut. 6:10-12). They'd often set up markers, like stones, that would help them remember. Many of us, if not all of us, will face times when we waver in our confidence in God. We look at our circumstances and they seem to tower over our weak faith. They overshadow all of the ways God has been faithful in the past. But we can follow the same command God gave the Israelites. We can set up markers to remember God's faithfulness. Look back at old journal entries; make a list of the ways God came through for you even when you doubted He would; name the ways God has been good to you or answered your prayers; ask someone to share how they've seen God work in your life. **When you commit to remember, you center your heart on God's faithfulness instead of on your seemingly impossible circumstances.**