

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 "I am Abraham's servant," he said. . . . 37 My master put me under this oath: 'You will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in whose land I live 38 but will go to my father's family and to my clan to take a wife for my son.' . . . 42 Today when I came to the spring, I prayed: LORD, God of my master Abraham, if only you will make my journey successful! 43 I am standing here at a spring. Let the young woman who comes out to draw water, and I say to her, 'Please let me drink a little water from your jug,' 44 and who responds to me, 'Drink, and I'll draw water for your camels also'—let her be the woman the LORD has appointed for my master's son. 45 Before I had finished praying silently, there was Rebekah coming with her jug on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew water. So I said to her, 'Please let me have a drink.' 46 She quickly lowered her jug from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels also.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. . . . 48 Then I knelt low, worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who guided me on the right way to take the granddaughter of my master's brother for his son."

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

55 But her brother and mother said, "Let the girl stay with us for about ten days. Then she can go." 56 But he responded to them, "Do not delay me." . . . 57 So they said, "Let's call the girl and ask her opinion." 58 They called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She replied, "I will go." 59 So they sent away their sister Rebekah with the one who had nursed and raised her, and Abraham's servant and his men. 60 They blessed Rebekah, saying to her: Our sister, may you become thousands upon ten thousands. May your offspring possess the city gates of their enemies. 61 Then Rebekah and her female servants got up, mounted the camels, and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and left. . . . 63 In the early evening Isaac went out to walk in the field, and looking up he saw camels coming. 64 Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she got down from her camel 65 and asked the servant, "Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?" The servant answered, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. 66 Then the servant told Isaac everything he had done. 67 And Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah and took Rebekah to be his wife. Isaac loved her, and he 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

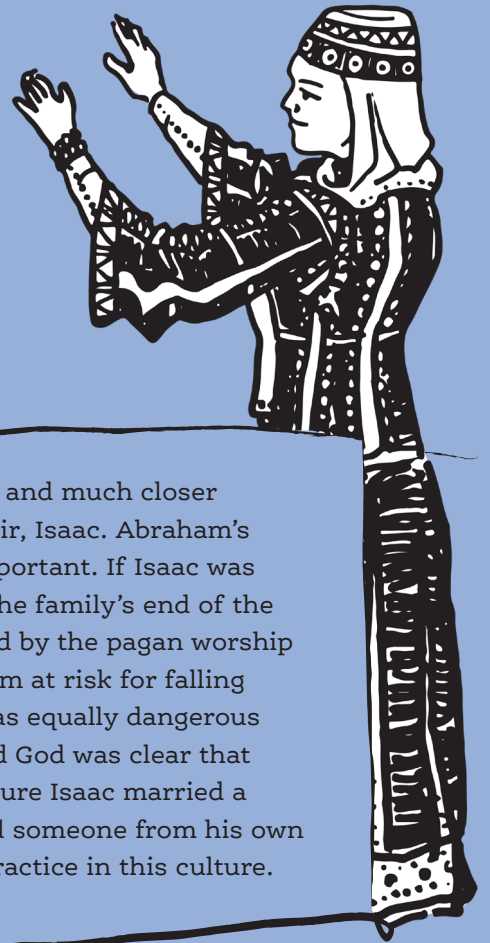
"If this chief servant was Eliezer, he showed great loyalty and grace in serving the heir who displaced him. Kidner calls Eliezer 'one of the most attractive minor characters in the Bible, with his quiet good sense, his piety and faith, his devotion to his employer and his firmness in seeing the matter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

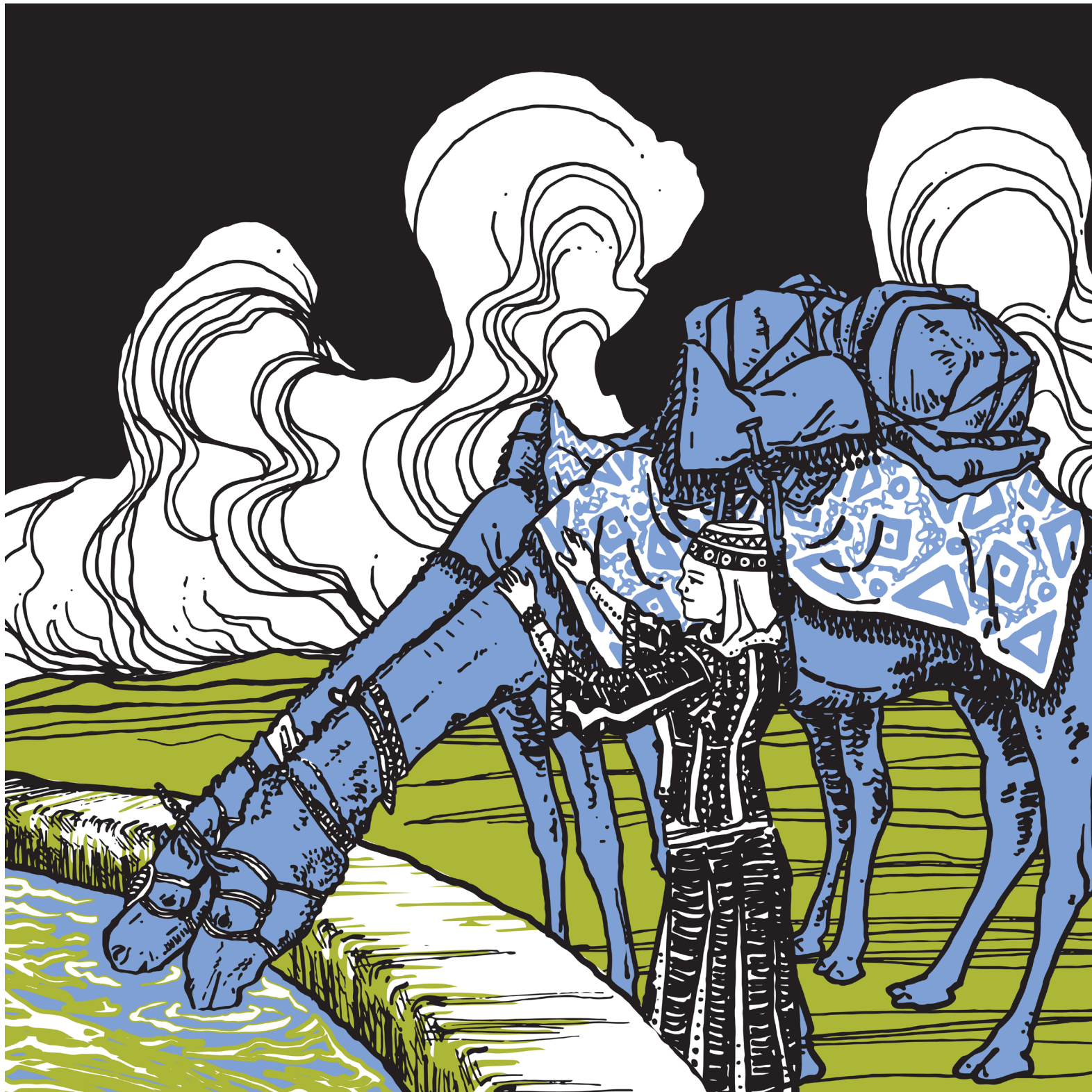


God's providence

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

MYSTERY LEADER

SUPPLIES LIST: NONE

Invite students to stand in a circle. Ask for a volunteer to be "it." Tell that student to step into the hallway. Designate another student as the secret leader. Explain that the leader should try different hand motions (representing animals or other actions, like sweeping or dancing). Bring back the student who's it. All the students without a specified role should follow the leader, without making the mystery leader's identity obvious, while the "it" student tries to figure out who the leader is. Allow three guesses before designating another "it" and leader to play again.

It's hard to know or follow the leader when his or her identity and actions aren't clear. Thankfully, God is always the same, always provides, and always leads us in perfect step with His plan. Because of this, we can follow Him wherever He leads, trusting that it will be for our good and His glory.

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 IT MATTER WHO ISAAC MARRIED?

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 importance 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 create his own outcome. Before the servant could even finish his prayer, God was already answering it. It was normal practice 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 gracious. Most often, we don't follow this model. **Instead, we make 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



PROVIDENCE IS GOD'S INVOLVEMENT AND WORK IN HIS CREATION—IN OUR LIVES. WHERE DO YOU SEE GOD'S PROVIDENCE IN THIS STORY?

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.**