

THE STORY

READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.

3- God Is With Us



THIS WEEK READ: Genesis 24, 27-33

So what's your family like? How many brothers and sisters do you have? Are you close with them? Where do they live?

As you read through Genesis you'll quickly discover that many of the families were pretty messed up. Cain kills his own brother. (**Genesis 4:8**) Noah gets drunk and curses his grandson (**Genesis 9:20-24**). Lot offers his daughters to an angry mob. (**Genesis 19:1-6**) Later on, Lot's daughters get him drunk and get impregnated by him, and we are told that Lot is the "most righteous man Sodom."(**Genesis 19:30-39**).

WHY do you think so many mixed up families are included in the Bible?

Genesis 24:1-4 (New Living)

¹ Abraham was now a very old man, and the **LORD had blessed him in every way.** ² One day Abraham said to the man in charge of his household, who was his oldest servant, ³ "Swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not let my son marry one of these local Canaanite women.

⁴ Go instead to my homeland, to my relatives, and find a wife there for my son Isaac.

What's wrong with a Canaanite woman? Why do you think Abraham was so determined to find a wife for his son from his homeland?

For additional insights read: Exodus. 34:15-16, Deut. 7:3, Ezra 9-10, 2 Corinthians 6:14.

Genesis 24, Imagine you are Eliezer (Abraham's servant who found a wife for Isaac). Your journey is over and you have returned home with Rebekah. You are lying in your tent and thinking back on your trip and everything you experienced along the way.

What have you learned about prayer?

What have you learned about God?

Abraham certainly had his faults and made his share of mistakes yet Genesis 24:1 (New Living) says, *the LORD had blessed him in every way.* Later God speaks to Abraham's son, Isaac in Genesis 26:3 and says, *"Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham.*

The fact is that God was with Isaac because God was with Abraham. **What are some ways parents can pass on their faith to their children today?**

Genesis 29 tells the story of Jacob, Rachael and Leah. So often we focus on Jacob and Rachel, and forget Leah. Leah was a real person, with real feelings, who experienced real pain from being rejected. This is her one and only wedding night, and she's only in the tent because her husband thinks she's Rachael. Used, unloved and rejected by her family, but God notices the tears of the Leah and blesses her by giving her children.

How have you experienced God's blessing during a painful or difficult time?

Genesis 29:31-35 (New Living)

³¹ When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, he enabled her to have children, but Rachel could not conceive. ³² So Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him **Reuben**, for she said, "The LORD has noticed my misery, and now my husband will love me."

³³ She soon became pregnant again and gave birth to another son. She named him **Simeon**, for she said, "The LORD heard that I was unloved and has given me another son."

³⁴ Then she became pregnant a third time and gave birth to another son. She named him **Levi**, for she said, "Surely this time my husband will feel affection for me, since I have given him three sons!"

³⁵ Once again Leah became pregnant and gave birth to another son. She named him **Judah**, for she said, "Now I will praise the LORD!" And then she stopped having children.

It's worth noting that the priestly line came through **Levi**; and in that line is Moses, Aaron and Miriam. Without Leah there is no Moses, no first five books of the Bible, no Ten Commandments, no exodus from Egypt. In addition there would be no Ezra, Nehemiah, Isaiah, Jeremiah or Ezekiel.

It's also worth noting that from Leah's fourth son; **Judah** comes the royal line. Ancestors include King David and King Solomon and ultimately Jesus.

What does this tell you about God, that he would use a women unloved and rejected to help bring salvation to humanity?