

SO WHAT

- Is love and marriage included in your prayers? If yes, how are your prayers in line with the Bible? If not, what is stopping you from praying for these things?
- Can you say that you are well prepared for life and marriage? Why or why not?
- What does "dying to self" mean? How did Jesus model this for us?

NOW WHAT

- Revisit your prayer list. What is God telling you to agree with in prayer regarding your relationships?
- What needs to develop or grow more in your character so you can be better prepared for life and marriage?
- Reflect on your relationships and ask God to bring you to a new level of faith, love, and maturity in this area.

PRAYER

- Thank and praise God for His great plans for you and your relationships. Trust and follow His ways.
- Ask God to search your heart and set your priorities right when it comes to your relationships. Pray that you will grow more in character and preparation for life and marriage.
- Pray for each other in your Victory group, that each one will decide to love according to Jesus' example and not depend on emotions. Pray for marriages to be pure and strengthened.

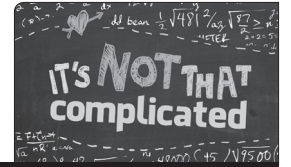


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WEEK 1

Isaac and Rebekah



NOTES

CONNECT

- What movie or song best describes your current love situation?
- What was the best advice you have ever received regarding romantic relationships (marriage, dating)?
- What is the cheesiest line you have ever said to someone?

WORD

64And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel 65and 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. . . . 67Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. . . . GENESIS 24:64,65,67
(READ THE WHOLE CHAPTER FOR CONTEXT.)

WHAT

When it comes to love, sex, and marriage, there is a strong pressure to follow worldly principles instead of God’s standards. However, the Bible gives us clear principles on how to succeed in these. Isaac and Rebekah’s story is a great example on how relationships don’t need to be that complicated. Here are three takeaways from their love story.

1 Prayer plays a major role in relationships.

12And he said, "O Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. . . ."
63And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening. And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there were camels coming. GENESIS 24:12,63

Eliezar prayed before looking for a wife for Isaac. Isaac also prayed before he met Rebekah. Do you pray for your spouse? Singles, are you praying for your future spouse? Parents, are you praying for the future spouse of your kids?

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2 Preparing for marriage doesn’t mean just waiting for the right one to come along.

18She said, "Drink, my lord." And she quickly let down her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. 19When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking." . . . 21The man gazed at her in silence to learn whether the Lord had prospered his journey or not. GENESIS 24:18,19,21

Knowing how much a camel drinks and noting how Rebekah responded to the need gave Eliezar hope that she was the spouse meant for Isaac. Preparing for life is important—not just preparing thinking that the ultimate destination is marriage. Based on Rebekah’s response, what did she have that made her ready for life and marriage? What opportunities opened for her because of this?

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3 Love is a decision and marriage is a covenant.

65"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. 66And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. 67Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. GENESIS 3:15

Today’s culture puts too much emphasis on feelings. When the decision to get married is primarily based on emotions, what happens when these wane or disappear? In God’s eyes, marriage is a covenant and the love behind this is a decision, not a feeling. How does the Bible teach us to love our spouse (Ephesians 5:25-33)? What decisions are involved here?

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