Opening

Gathering: Tell of a situation that appeared to be random at the time, but God's hand is evident when looking back.

Today's Focus: To recognize that God is in control of everything that happens in our lives and even works in what we might call coincidences or random occurrences.

Key Verses:
This is from the Lord; we can say nothing to you one way or the other. Genesis 24:50
For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. Genesis 2:24
Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. Galatians 4:28

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Sarah Dies (Genesis 23:1-9)

What happened when Isaac was 37 years old?
Genesis 23:1-2
Besides losing his lifetime partner, what problem did this present for Abraham?
Genesis 23:3-4
How did the Hittites respond to his request to buy a burial site?
Genesis 23:5-6
Did Abraham have a site in mind?
Genesis 23:7-9

Ephron's Field (Genesis 23:10-20)

How did Ephron respond to this request?
Genesis 23:10-11
Note: Hittite laws said that a landowner remained liable for all dues if he sold only a part of a property. If an entire tract of property was passed on, the new owner was responsible for the dues.

How did Abraham respond to this generous offer by Ephron?
Genesis 23:12-13
Where have we seen a similar reaction by Abraham before, and why did he respond this way?
Genesis 14:21-23

Did Ephron accept Abraham's money?
Genesis 23:14-16
Did Ephron deed over the entire field or only the cave that Abraham requested?
Genesis 23:17-20
Abraham Puts His House In Order  (*Genesis 24:1-9*)

What did the death of Sarah prompt Abraham to take care of before he died?
*Genesis 24:1-4*

Why was it important that Isaac marry from within the family?
*Genesis 17:7-10, 14*

Who was this chief servant to whom Abraham entrusted the mission?
*Genesis 15:2*

What concerns did the servant have?
*Genesis 24:5-6*

Why didn't Abraham want Isaac to go to Haran?
*Genesis 15:13, 18*

Why wasn't Abraham concerned that the woman wouldn't come?
*Genesis 24:7-8*

How did Abraham make sure this would be done, even if he died first?
*Genesis 24:9*

At The Well  (*Genesis 24:10-14*)

How far was the servant's journey?
*Genesis 24:10*

What tactic did the servant use to meet local girls?
*Genesis 24:11*

What other wives did God bring to the well?
*Genesis 29:1-2, 9, Exodus 2:15-16, 21*

What did the servant do as soon as he arrived at the well?
*Genesis 24:12-14*

God Brings Rebekah  (*Genesis 24:15-27*)

How long did it take God to respond to the servant's prayer?
*Genesis 24:15*

What was Rebekah's relation to Isaac?
*Genesis 11:27-29 (22:20-24)*

What requirements had Abraham given his servant for his son's wife?
*Genesis 24:4*

What bonuses did God throw in?
*Genesis 24:16*

How much did the servant coax Rebekah to complete the sign from God?
*Genesis 24:17-21*

What did the servant do when it appeared that Rebekah might be the one?
*Genesis 24:22*

What was the final proof that Rebekah was the one God had sent?
*Genesis 24:23-25*

How did the servant respond to this proof?
*Genesis 24:26-27*
Brother Laban (Genesis 24:28-32)

How did Rebekah’s brother Laban respond when he saw the expensive gifts Rebekah received?
  Genesis 24:28-31
What character traits does this indicate of Laban that are confirmed later?
  Genesis 29:20-23
  Genesis 31:19
  Genesis 31:43, 29

The Servant’s Mission (Genesis 24:33-52)

How did the servant respond to the lavish hospitality?
  Genesis 24:32-33
  NOTE: It was bad manners to decline a host’s food & to raise issues before casual meal talk
Did the servant say he would force Rebekah to return with him?
  Genesis 24:34-41
What was the underlying message of the servant’s recounting of events?
  Genesis 24:42-48
Did Laban and Bethuel recognize this message?
  Genesis 24:49-51
How did the servant respond when his mission met success?
  Genesis 24:52

Marriage Customs in Patriarchal Times (Genesis 24:53-67)

Parents of the man would choose the woman their son would marry
  Was this custom followed for Isaac’s marriage?
    Genesis 24:3-4
  Was this custom followed in the next generation?
    Genesis 26:34-35
    Genesis 27:46-28:2
The father of the woman would give his daughter to the future husband
  Was this custom followed for Isaac’s marriage?
    Genesis 24:50-51
A purchase price (bride price) was paid to the bride’s father
  Was this custom followed for Isaac’s marriage?
    Genesis 24:53
The bride’s father gave his daughter a gift of property or a maid (dowry)
  Was this custom followed for Isaac’s marriage?
    Genesis 24:59
The betrothal was an engagement period that was legally binding
  Was this custom followed for Isaac’s marriage?
    Genesis 24:54-58
  What was significant about the blessing Rebekah’s family gave her?
    Genesis 24:60
After the betrothal, the bride was brought to her husband’s home
  Was this custom followed for Isaac’s marriage?
    Genesis 24:61-66
In this process, people would marry first, then love
  Did this occur in Isaac’s marriage?
    Genesis 24:67
God Passes Covenant Promises to Isaac  \((\text{Genesis 26:1-5})\)

Where did Isaac go during a time of famine, and why didn't he go to Egypt as his father had?  
\(\text{Genesis 26:1-2}\)

What else did God say to Isaac, and why?  
\(\text{Genesis 26:3-5}\)

Who Is She?  \((\text{Genesis 26:6-11})\)

How had Abraham displayed a lack of trust in God when living in other nations?  
\(\text{Genesis 12:11-13; 20:1-2}\)

Did Isaac learn from the mistakes of his father?  
\(\text{Genesis 26:6-7}\)

How did Isaac's situation turn out?  
\(\text{Genesis 26:8-11}\)

God Blesses Isaac  \((\text{Genesis 26:12-33})\)

How did God bless Isaac in Philistia?  
\(\text{Genesis 26:12-13}\)

How did this become a problem?  
\(\text{Genesis 26:14-16}\)

Did Isaac take offense at Abimelech's request for him to leave?  
\(\text{Genesis 26:17-18}\)

How did wells in this dry land become a problem for Isaac?  
\(\text{Genesis 26:19-22}\)

Where did Isaac move next and what happened there?  
\(\text{Genesis 26:23-25}\)

Why did the Philistine leaders track him down all the way to Beersheba?  
\(\text{Genesis 26:26-29}\)

Abraham made a similar treaty at the same place with an earlier Abimelech (\(\text{Genesis 21:22-34}\) )

Did Isaac accept or refuse this request for a treaty?  
\(\text{Genesis 26:30-31}\)

How did this story reinforce the name of this place given earlier by Abraham?  
\(\text{Genesis 26:32-33}\)

Closing Prayer

Response

1. Do I deal honestly with everyone, even when it is easy to take advantage of someone?  
\((\text{Genesis 23:12-16; 2 Kings 12:15; Jeremiah 5:1; Luke 19:8; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12})\)


3. If I am married, do I submit to and love my spouse as God desires?  
\((\text{Genesis 24:67; 29:20; Proverbs 5:15-20; Song of Songs; Ephesians 5:21-33})\)

4. Are there sins that my family has passed among generations?  How can I stop them?  
\((\text{Genesis 26:7-10; Deuteronomy 5:9-10; 1 Kings 15:25-26; Psalm 78:8; Ezekiel 18; Joel 1:3})\)

5. Do I praise God when he showers me with His blessings?  \((\text{Genesis 24:26-27, 52; 26:22-25; Psalm 69:30; 100:4-5; 105:1; Ezekiel 34:25-31; Luke 17:12-19; 2 Cor. 9:15; 1 Thess. 5:18})\)