

Genesis

Embarrassing Ancestors and Our Glorious Hope

Genesis is all about God making an extravagantly gorgeous Creation to declare His glory and the horrifying result of our ancestors' rebellion against His kingly rule. It was written to remind us of our good God's promise to undo all the terror that our treason has wrought. It shows us our ancestors' faltering walk of faith and His faithful care for them, all the while paving the way for the coming King who would deliver us from ourselves and all who oppose our good God. The New Heavens and Earth will perfectly declare His praise.

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Trust God! His provision really is sufficient for us. What He has promised He will indeed do. Rest in Him and obey His commands.

Obey Him! No matter what happens, faithfully do what He tells us to do. Even if it seems like it would be crazy or dangerous or we might never get what we want. Trust Him and then obey His Word.

Pray! Ask the Lord to continue to expand our sense of wonder and praise for all His greatness.

Matt and Tara Megill

Matt and Tara along with their children - Irene, Emmett, Alethea, and John - serve as missionaries in Niger, West Africa. Matt is the HIV Program Director at SIM Galmi Hospital and along with full-time Nigerian staff members, they work to promote awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS as well as screening, treatment, and outreach to Nigerians of all walks of life in a Christ - centered clinic. Matt can be reached at nottous@generalmail.com. To learn more about SIM Galmi Hospital go to <http://www.galmi.org/>.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
May 19th, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 24: 1 - 67

In Search of a Godly Spouse

1. Isaac Needed to Marry a Godly Woman.
2. God Provides Her in His Heseed Love for Abraham.
3. Christ is the Spouse God Has Provided for His People.

As the covenant family of Abraham passes to Isaac, *the* most pressing need is for him to have a godly wife. For this Abraham and his most trusted servant place their hope in God and obey His commandments. We see the story unfold and God demonstrates again His covenant faithfulness. He is trustworthy!

Mission to the World, Niger, West Africa

Matt Megill

Evening Service:

2 Cor. 1: 3 - 11

Sharing Abundantly in Christ

Please come this evening to hear about the mission the Lord has Matt serving in Africa!

Notes:

Taking Gathered Worship Home

God has miraculously provided Isaac as the promised child through whom all the blessed descendants of Abraham and Sarah will proceed. So his marriage is critical. In seeking her out Abraham and his servant trust in God's provision and obey His commands.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ **Genesis 24:1-67**. DISCUSS, How do Abraham and his servant demonstrate their trust in the Lord? PRAY for God to embolden us to trust Him even with our greatest desires.

Sunday PM

DISCUSS, What did you learn about Matt Megill's ministry? How can you participate in that ministry? How can you pray for, support, and encourage it? PRAISE Christ for His promise to reach the nations.

Monday

READ **Genesis 24:1-9**. DISCUSS, What does Abraham make his servant promise? Why? PRAY for God to transform us. EXTEND His grace to someone today. Show them the grace Christ has lavished upon you.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 24:10-21**. DISCUSS, How does Abraham's servant demonstrate faith in God's faithfulness? PRAY, "Father God, we praise You. Jesus, we thank You for coming to save us. Holy Spirit, empower us to live out this faith!"

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 24:15-33; 22:20-24** (list of Abraham's kin). DISCUSS, How did Rebekah respond? What does her identity reveal about God's faithfulness? PRAY, ask God to radically transform your life so that no one could mistake the fact that you are trusting in Christ to raise you from the dead.

Thursday

READ **Genesis 24:34-67**. CONSIDER God's faithfulness in going before Abraham's servant and demonstrating His hesed love to Abraham. PRAY, "Jesus, You are faithful. Enable us to trust You. Open our eyes to see Your trustworthiness. Change us and make us more able to trust and obey You, Jesus."

Friday

READ **Genesis 24:1-67**. How have you been learning from this passage this week? Ask for the Holy Spirit to make more and more abundantly clear that the promises of God are trustworthy and accomplished in Christ. Thank Him for the certainty of His victory.

REJOICE for Christ has risen from the grave and secured our resurrection. PRAY for your neighbors to know this same delight that God has blessed you to know. Ask the Lord to open their eyes to His goodness and wonder.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow. Do what you can today so that you will be less rushed tomorrow. READ **Genesis 25:1-35**. Come to worship tomorrow expecting to hear from God through His Word and to learn more about our God together. Pray for God's glory to be more and more manifested in the Woodstock area. Pray that He will use us to extend His grace as we celebrate it together.

Passage Outline: (*How to Find a Great Spouse in Eight Easy Steps—NOT!*)

1. Vow (vv. 1-9)
2. Travel and Plan (vv. 10-14)
3. Test (vv. 15-21)
4. Rebekah's Identity (vv. 22-28)
5. Meeting the Family (vv. 29-33)
6. Abraham's Servant Recounts Mission (vv. 34-49)
7. Engagement and Blessing (vv. 50-60)
8. Travel and Marriage (vv. 61-67)