

GENESIS: REAL GOD – PART 2: REAL PEOPLE
TORCHBEARERS – GENESIS 23–25:18

MESSAGE NOTES: *Playing our part in God's story...*

1. ACT & ENGAGE
2. SEEK & PRAY
3. LOVE & CARE

Questions for Community Groups and Individual Bible Study:

For Starters: Are we programmed to think *bigger is better*? Share some examples and stories *for* and *against*? Is there danger of relating this idea to our faith? Do you see God work in the big and bodacious or the normal and ordinary? Discuss.

The Basics: Read/review Genesis 23 – 25:18. This section of Scripture contains no big, nor miraculous event, no divine intervention, no audible voice of God. As you read the passage, how and where do you see God work, directing the story behind the scenes? How have you seen God work in the background and back story of your life? Be specific.

Quick Fire Round:

1. Read Genesis 24:1–9. What does Abraham commission his servant to do? Why was it important Abraham find a wife for Isaac? How can you live as a torchbearer - setting up and encouraging the next generation?
2. Genesis 24:11–67 contains multiple examples of prayer and answers to prayer, seeking the Lord on the journey, waiting on God's wisdom and direction. Discuss specifically the servant's role in seeking God through prayer. How can prayer become an integral part of your life? What do you think could happen if you developed prayer habits?
3. Genesis 24 displays simple and practical acts of care, hospitality and generosity. Identify the giver and receiver and circumstances surrounding each act of kindness. Read Proverbs 19:17, Isaiah 58:10, Matthew 25:31–46, Hebrews 13:1–2 and James 2:13–26. How could you practice hospitality and generosity toward others this week? What could you do as an individual, family or community group?
4. Genesis 24 is an example of God's providence. Define providence. How does it differ from luck, chance? What could you do to place yourself in a position to hear from God, in order to serve God? What steps of faith is God asking you to take in order for you to be faithfully obedient in your life?
5. Read Hebrews 11:8–12, 17–19. What applicable life lessons did you glean from Abraham and Sarah?

Community Group Word-based prayer: Read Psalm 23. Spend time thanking God for working in your life. Pray through His characteristics. Recognize how He is leading, guiding and shepherding you through every situation. Ask Him specifically to help you through challenging circumstances. Choose to draw closer to Him.

A Closing Prayer: Father, I know that you are never far from me and you are working in my life whether I see you or hear you or not. Increase my faith. Help me learn to trust and serve you in the ordinary. Amen.