

# THE BIG PICTURE

Elementary  
Week 2

## **PARENT BIBLE STUDY**

### **Read: Genesis 24**

Abraham was getting old. He had just buried his wife, and his promised son, Isaac, still wasn't married. Abraham made his chief servant swear that he would find Isaac a wife from his own people. Of course, the servant had tons of doubts and questions. How was he supposed to choose a woman, and what would he do if she didn't want to come back with him, a stranger, to marry ... another total stranger?

But Abraham had learned a thing or two about trusting God in the first 100 years of his life. He was confident in God's goodness, and he told his servant that the Lord would send an angel to go before him and guide him to the right wife for Isaac. After a long journey to the land of Abraham's people, the servant pleaded with God to be clear. He saw a beautiful woman, and after asking the woman for a drink, she offered water for his camels, too. The exact sign he prayed for happened right before his eyes, and he knew that Rebekah was the woman for Isaac. He praised the Lord and acknowledged his kindness and faithfulness (Genesis 24:27).

Sometimes, God does just that. He immediately answers our exact prayers in the exact way we pray them. But most of the time, it doesn't work this way. God knows our humanness and knows we could so easily fall into believing the lie that he is more like a genie or a vending machine and less like, well, the holy and faithful God of the universe. The amazing truth is that this faithful God of the universe actually *does* care about every detail of our lives (Matthew 10:30-31) and he is active and working, even when we can't see it.

Knowing God's character and that he always has a plan can help us to pray with confidence, like Abraham and his servant in this story. When we have faith that God is who he says he is; faithful, kind, good, and loving, we can pray knowing that even if he doesn't answer our prayers exactly like we think he should, Romans 8:28 is still true, and he is working for our ultimate good.

**How has God answered some of your prayers?**

**How has prayer – answered or unanswered – increased your faith?**

**How has prayer increased your knowledge of and faith in God's character?**