



## Week 6 (June 7-13): Lesson Guide

**Open In Prayer**

**Welcome/Introductions**

**Ask the group to recall the guidelines for discussion that we use to create a safe environment.**

**Ask someone to retell last week's story from 1 Kings 19:1-18.**

**Ask someone on your team to read the Hook Question** - Ask, "Is it possible for people to find love true love in an arranged marriage? Why or why not?"

**Ask someone from your team to read the following background for the story:**

Trusting in God's providence means trusting God to guide your life, it means looking for ways to see God's leadership and choosing to follow His plan. Today's story is about how Isaac and Rebekah decided to get married by trusting in God's providence. Their story can be shocking for some Americans, because Isaac and Rebekah trusted that God was bringing them together and agreed to marry before they ever met each other! The story of Isaac and Rebekah's marriage can encourage believers to trust God on a new level.

One day, a day much like every other, Rebekah went out of her house to fetch water from the community well. While there, she met a stranger who asked for a drink. She gave him a drink and drew up heavy water many times to give his camels a drink also. When she finished, the stranger initiated some introductions, invited himself to her house, and lavished her in jewelry! When the stranger arrived at Rebekah's house, he was treated as a guest of honor, and the family offered him food. However, before he would take a single bite, the stranger announced that he needed to share with Rebekah's father and brother why he was there. This is where our story begins...

**Tell the story from Genesis 24:33-67** (story has a lot of details, you may need to summarize a little)

**Rebuild the story** – (Group members tell the story based on what they remember)

**Read Genesis 24:33-67** – (Ask the group to read these scriptures)

**Discuss these questions:**

- How did God providentially lead Isaac and Rebekah to get married?
  - Trusting in God's providence means trusting God to guide your life.
- What does this story teach us about trusting God's providence when deciding to get married or making life-changing decisions?
- What big decisions are you trying to make? How might God be trying to lead you providentially?
- Based on this story, what changes do you need to make in the way you make decisions?

**Ask for a volunteer to retell the story one last time.**

**Ask for a volunteer to tell the story next week.**

**Prayer Requests** (ask someone in the group to take notes so you can email the requests to the group)

**Pray** (don't feel the need to mention every request in prayer again, just pray for the group and send the email)



## Week 6: Leadership Coaching Guide

### **Leading** [learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

- Rebuilding the story gives the whole group a chance to talk through the story from beginning to end. Start by asking the group, “What happened first in the story we just heard?” You may need to prompt them to continue using questions like, “Then what?” or “What did he do next” Be prepared to help them fill in the story line.
- During the rebuilding of the story, you may want to tell the group that you are going to go around the group and take turns telling the next part of the story. Alternately, you might ask your group to break into groups of two or three and let everyone take turns telling the entire story.

### **Shepherding** [know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]

- Helping and supporting others is a vital aspect of group life. Be attentive to the practical needs in your group. Be aware of skills, knowledge and gifts that you or others in your group have that could be used to help one another.
- Offer help but be cautious not to offer unsolicited advice. Advice begins with “You ought to...” Help begins with “Can I offer to help by...”
- Look for opportunities to plug your team members into service. If possible, invite them to serve with you. If you are trying to find good opportunities to serve, there are many opportunities to serve on Wednesday nights!

### **Developing** [grow as a disciple yourself]

- The next phrase in our study of the characteristics of love is, “It (love) does not demand its own way.” The Greek phrase literally means “does not seek the things of itself”. In Philippians, Paul goes a step further. He writes, “Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.”
- Place your name in that sentence, “\_\_\_\_\_ does not demand his/her own way.” Make a conscious effort this week to place the interests of others before your own interests.

Lesson from The Met’s Leadership Coaching Guide:

<http://themetonline.org/content/uploads/2014/12/All-of-Us-Week-3-Jesus-Walks-on-the-Water.pdf>