Walk Through the Bible

GENESIS 24-25

OVERVIEW

In Genesis chapter 24, a few years after Sarah has died, Abraham strongly desires to find Isaac a wife from among his own people in Mesopotamia. Abraham sends out his trusted servant to accomplish this mission. Sure enough, with the help of the Lord, the servant returns with Rebekah, the granddaughter of Abraham's own brother. Isaac is married to Rebekah at the age of 40.

Genesis chapter 25 rushes to fill in the details of the end of Abraham's life. We are told that Abraham marries another woman and has six sons with her. Abraham dies and is buried with Sarah. Ishmael's 12 sons are listed, and his death is recorded, as well. Finally, Isaac's twin boys are born in response to his prayer to the Lord.

DISCUSSION

- Whom does Abraham, Isaac, and the unnamed servant represent in this narrative? In what ways does each person fulfill that picture?
- The Bible says Abraham died in a "good old age" (Genesis 25:8). What does that phrase mean? What four ways can a person continue the work God has given when he or she reaches that "good old age"?
- God made a series of promises to Abraham that are fulfilled by the end of his life. What are some of those promises?
- So far, the book of Genesis has revealed that brothers fight and families have conflicts. In the case of Jacob and Esau, who is to blame for their ongoing fierce rivalry? (Genesis 25:28)
- Why did Esau prove about himself when he was willing to sell his birthright for a bowl of bean stew? (Genesis 25:29-34)

