

Scene from *City Slickers*, 1991

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sH6unNljq7E>

**TODAY**  
**IS THE BEST DAY**  
**OF MY LIFE**

A decorative graphic featuring a central yellow and black floral pattern with a butterfly. The pattern is surrounded by black swirls and a large black letter 'O' that frames the text. The background is a solid red color.

# Welcome to the Garden!





# GENESIS

*The Book of Beginnings.*

## Genesis 1:1

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

## Life in the Garden of Eden Genesis 2:4-25

## The Fall of Mankind:

*It's no longer the way it is supposed to be*

Genesis 3

## Cain and Abel



# Abraham, the Believer!



# Abraham, the Believer!

## Genesis 15:1-21

<sup>1</sup>After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”

<sup>2</sup>But Abram said, “O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

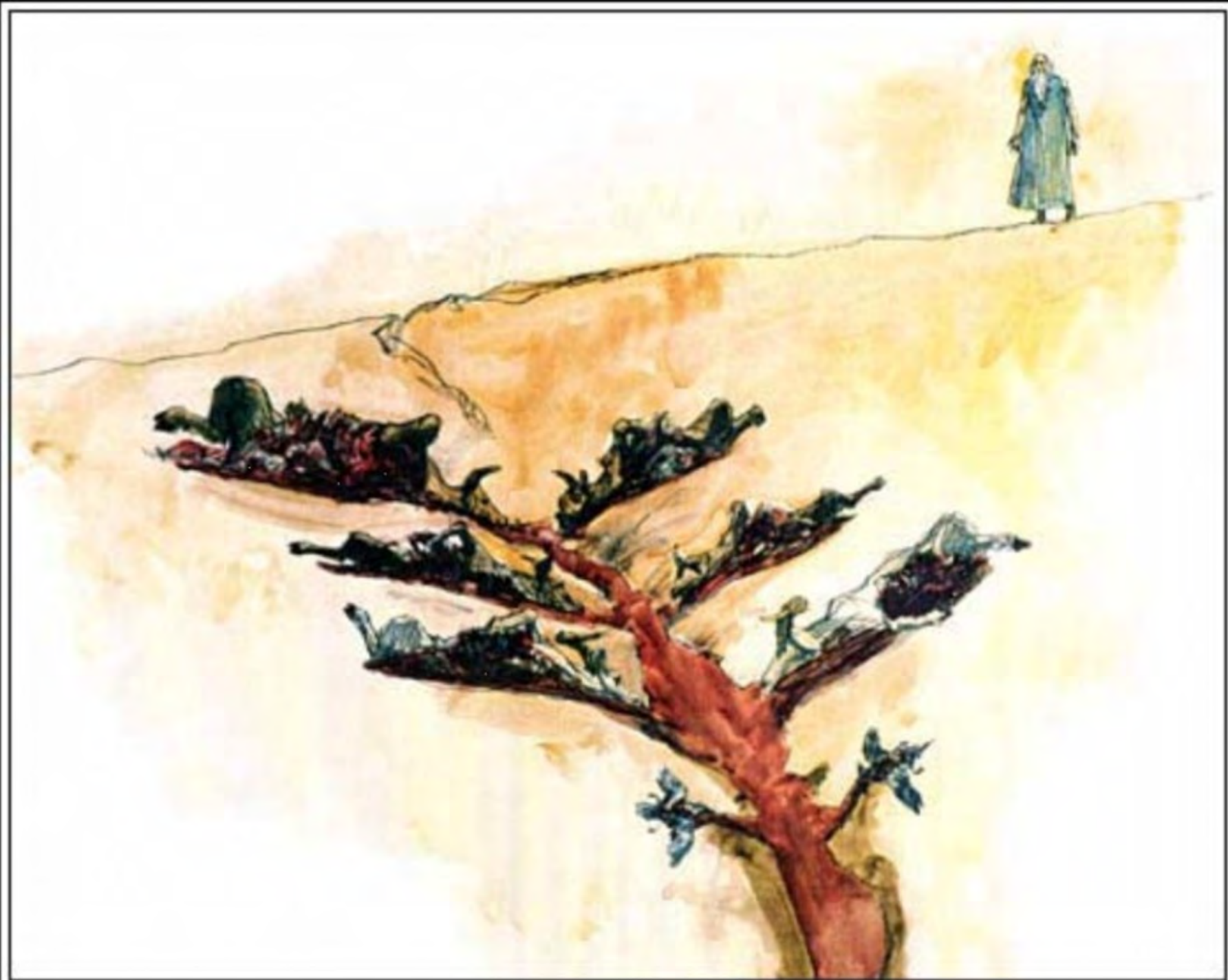


# Abraham, the Believer!

## Genesis 15:1-21

<sup>4</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.” <sup>5</sup>He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars – if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

<sup>6</sup>Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.



# God keeps his promise



# God keeps his promise

## Genesis 21:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised.

<sup>2</sup>Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.

<sup>3</sup>Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. <sup>4</sup>When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. <sup>5</sup>Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

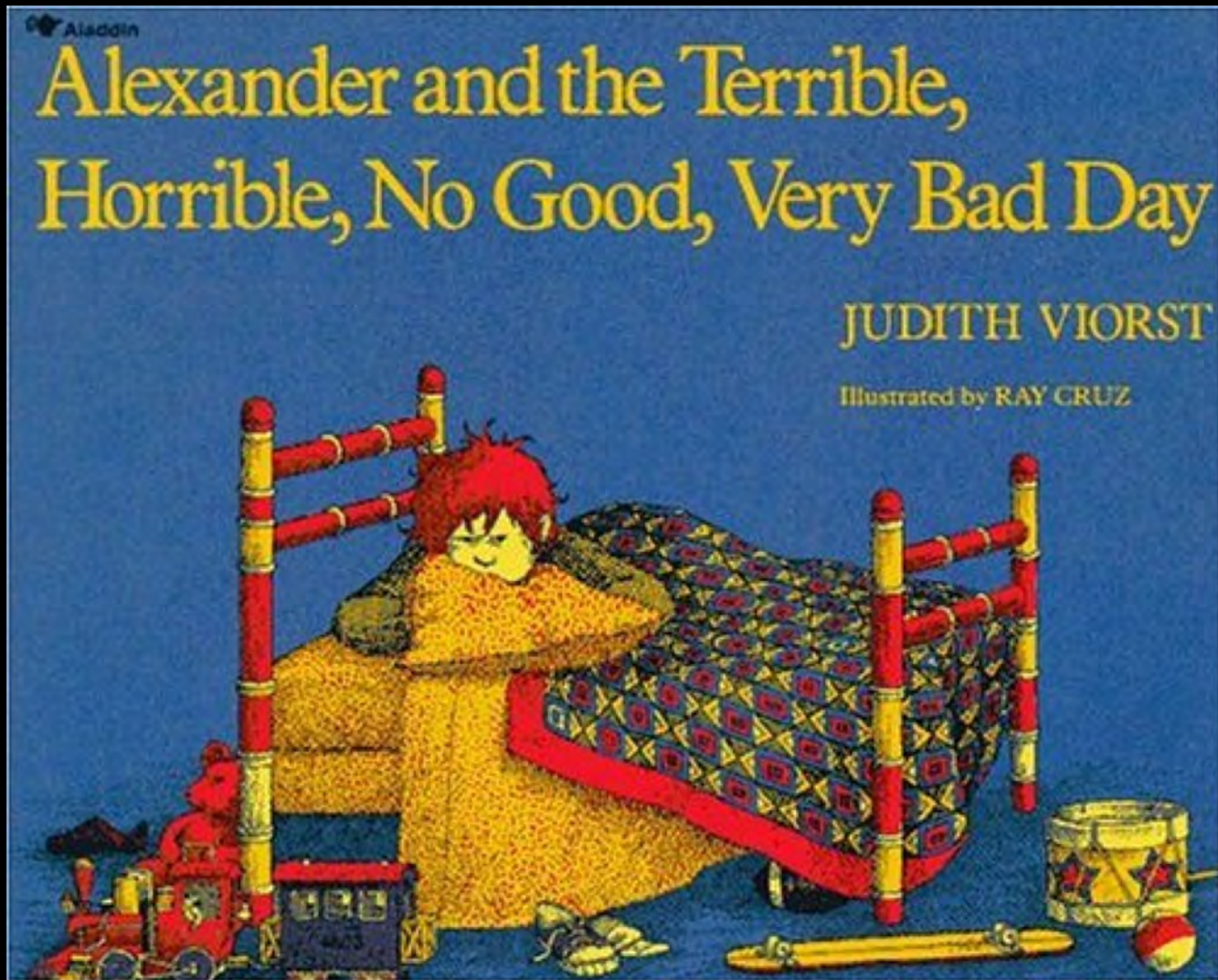
# God keeps his promise

## Genesis 21:1-3

<sup>6</sup>Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.”

<sup>7</sup>And she added, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

# Isaac's Worst Day



# Isaac's Worst Day

## Genesis 22:1-18

<sup>1</sup>Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him,  
“Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

<sup>2</sup>Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love — Isaac — and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

# Isaac's Worst Day

## Genesis 22:1-18

<sup>6</sup>Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together,

<sup>7</sup>Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham,  
“Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”



# Isaac's Worst Day

## Genesis 22:1-18

<sup>8</sup>Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

<sup>9</sup>When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup>Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.



**CARAVAGGIO**, *The Sacrifice of Isaac*, 1601-02, Oil on canvas, 104 x 135 cm, Galleria degli Uffizi, Florence

## Genesis 22:1-18

<sup>11</sup>But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

<sup>12</sup>“Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

# Isaac's Worst Day

## Genesis 22:1-18

<sup>13</sup>Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.

<sup>14</sup>So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."."

# Isaac's Best Day!



# Scene 1 - The Big Idea!

*Dad's looking out for him*

## **Genesis 24:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>Abraham was now old and well advanced in years, and the LORD had blessed him in every way. <sup>2</sup>He said to the chief servant in his household, the one in charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh. <sup>3</sup>I want you to swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living, <sup>4</sup>but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac."

# Scene 1 - The Big Idea!

*“What if...”*

## **Genesis 24:5**

<sup>5</sup>The servant asked him, “What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to this land? Shall I then take your son back to the country you came from?”

Scene from *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, 1975

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdKa9bXVinE>



# Scene 1 - The Big Idea!

*“What if...”*

## **Genesis 24:5**

<sup>5</sup>The servant asked him, “What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to this land? Shall I then take your son back to the country you came from?”

# Scene 1 – The Big Idea!

*No, you are to stay here,  
and make sure he doesn't leave!!*

## **Genesis 24:6-9**

<sup>6</sup>“Make sure that you do not take my son back there,” Abraham said. <sup>7</sup>“The LORD, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father’s household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, ‘To your offspring I will give this land’ – he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there. <sup>8</sup>If the woman is unwilling to come back with you, then you will be released from this oath of mine. Only do not take my son back there.” <sup>9</sup>So the servant put his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham and swore an oath to him concerning this matter.

# Scene 2 - The Meeting at the Well



# Scene 2 - The Meeting at the Well

*Servant and the Camels travel*

## **Genesis 24:10-11**

<sup>10</sup>Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and left, taking with him all kinds of good things from his master. He set out for Aram Naharaim and made his way to the town of Nahor. <sup>11</sup>He had the camels kneel down near the well outside the town; it was toward evening, the time the women go out to draw water.

# Scene 2 – The Meeting at the Well

## *A Prayer of Desperation*

### **Genesis 24:12-14**

<sup>12</sup>Then he prayed, “O LORD, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. <sup>13</sup>See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. <sup>14</sup>May it be that when I say to a girl, ‘Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,’ and she says, ‘Drink, and I’ll water your camels too’ — let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master.”

## Scene 2 - The Meeting at the Well

*Enter Rebekah! The plot thickens...*

### **Genesis 24:15-16**

<sup>15</sup>Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, who was the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor. <sup>16</sup>The girl was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had ever lain with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar and came up again.

# Scene 2 - The Meeting at the Well

*Could she be the one?*

## **Genesis 24:17-21**

<sup>17</sup>The servant hurried to meet her and said, “Please give me a little water from your jar.”

<sup>18</sup>“Drink, my lord,” she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink. <sup>19</sup>After she had given him a drink, she said, “I’ll draw water for your camels too, until they have finished drinking.” <sup>20</sup>So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, ran back to the well to draw more water, and drew enough for all his camels. <sup>21</sup>Without saying a word, the man watched her closely to learn whether or not the LORD had made his journey successful.

# Scene 2 - The Meeting at the Well

*Is she from the right family?*

## **Genesis 24:22-25**

<sup>22</sup>When the camels had finished drinking, the man took out a gold nose ring weighing a beka and two gold bracelets weighing ten shekels. <sup>23</sup>Then he asked, “Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room in your father’s house for us to spend the night?”

<sup>24</sup>She answered him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son that Milcah bore to Nahor.” <sup>25</sup>And she added, “We have plenty of straw and fodder, as well as room for you to spend the night.”



# Scene 2 - The Meeting at the Well

*This is looking good!!!*

## **Genesis 24:26-27**

<sup>26</sup>Then the man bowed down and worshiped the LORD,  
<sup>27</sup>saying, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of my master  
Abraham, who has not abandoned his kindness and  
faithfulness to my master. As for me, the LORD has led  
me on the journey to the house of my  
master's relatives."

# Scene 3 - The Meeting of the Fam'

Robert DeNiro

Ben Stiller

## Meet the Parents

From the Director of 'AUSTIN POWERS'



First comes love. Then comes the interrogation.

## Scene 3 – The Meeting of the Fam'

*Oh, Oh... she's got a big brother.*

### **Genesis 24:28-31**

<sup>28</sup>The girl ran and told her mother's household about these things. <sup>29</sup>Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban, and he hurried out to the man at the spring. <sup>30</sup>As soon as he had seen the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and had heard Rebekah tell what the man said to her, he went out to the man and found him standing by the camels near the spring. <sup>31</sup>"Come, you who are blessed by the LORD," he said. "Why are you standing out here? I have prepared the house and a place for the camels."

# Scene 3 – The Meeting of the Fam'

## *Retelling the story*

### **Genesis 24:32-33**

<sup>32</sup>So the man went to the house, and the camels were unloaded. Straw and fodder were brought for the camels, and water for him and his men to wash their feet. <sup>33</sup>Then food was set before him, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told you what I have to say."

"Then tell us," Laban said.

# Scene 3 – The Meeting of the Fam'

## *Retelling the story*

### **Genesis 24:34-38**

<sup>34</sup>So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. <sup>35</sup>The LORD has blessed my master abundantly, and he has become wealthy. He has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, menservants and maidservants, and camels and donkeys. <sup>36</sup>My master's wife Sarah has borne him a son in her old age, and he has given him everything he owns. <sup>37</sup>And my master made me swear an oath, and said, 'You must not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live, <sup>38</sup>but go to my father's family and to my own clan, and get a wife for my son.'

# Scene 3 – The Meeting of the Fam'

## *Retelling the story*

### **Genesis 24:39-41**

<sup>39</sup>“Then I asked my master, ‘What if the woman will not come back with me?’

<sup>40</sup>“He replied, ‘The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and make your journey a success, so that you can get a wife for my son from my own clan and from my father’s family. <sup>41</sup>Then, when you go to my clan, you will be released from my oath even if they refuse to give her to you – you will be released from my oath.’

# Scene 3 – The Meeting of the Fam'

## *Retelling the story*

### **Genesis 24:42-44**

<sup>42</sup>“When I came to the spring today, I said, ‘O LORD, God of my master Abraham, if you will, please grant success to the journey on which I have come. <sup>43</sup>See, I am standing beside this spring; if a maiden comes out to draw water and I say to her, “Please let me drink a little water from your jar,” <sup>44</sup>and if she says to me, “Drink, and I’ll draw water for your camels too,” let her be the one the LORD has chosen for my master’s son.’

# Scene 3 – The Meeting of the Fam'

## *Retelling the story*

### **Genesis 24:45-47**

<sup>45</sup>“Before I finished praying in my heart, Rebekah came out, with her jar on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water, and I said to her, ‘Please give me a drink.’ <sup>46</sup>“She quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder and said, ‘Drink, and I’ll water your camels too.’ So I drank, and she watered the camels also.

<sup>47</sup>“I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’

“She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel son of Nahor, whom Milcah bore to him.’



# Scene 3 – The Meeting of the Fam'

## *The Big Ask!*

### **Genesis 24:47-49**

“Then I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her arms,<sup>48</sup> and I bowed down and worshiped the LORD. I praised the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to get the granddaughter of my master’s brother for his son.”

<sup>49</sup>“Now if you will show kindness and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so I may know which way to turn.”

# Scene 3 – The Meeting of the Fam'

## *The Answer*

### **Genesis 24:28**

<sup>50</sup>Laban and Bethuel answered, “This is from the LORD; we can say nothing to you one way or the other. <sup>51</sup>Here is Rebekah; take her and go, and let her become the wife of your master’s son, as the LORD has directed.”

# Scene 4 - A Reaction of Praise

# Scene 4 – A Reaction of Praise

## Genesis 24:52-54a

<sup>52</sup>When Abraham's servant heard what they said, he bowed down to the ground before the LORD. <sup>53</sup>Then the servant brought out gold and silver jewelry and articles of clothing and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave costly gifts to her brother and to her mother. <sup>54</sup>Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night there.

# Scene 5 - Leaving is a bit tricky...



# Scene 5 – Leaving is a bit tricky...

*A little snafu*

## **Genesis 24:54b-60**

When they got up the next morning, he said, “Send me on my way to my master.”

<sup>55</sup>But her brother and her mother replied, “Let the girl remain with us ten days or so; then you may go.”

<sup>56</sup>But he said to them, “Do not detain me, now that the LORD has granted success to my journey. Send me on my way so I may go to my master.”

## Scene 5 – Leaving is a bit tricky...

*I got an idea... let's see if Rebekah has an opinion*

### **Genesis 24:54b-60**

<sup>57</sup>Then they said, “Let’s call the girl and ask her about it.” <sup>58</sup>So they called Rebekah and asked her, “Will you go with this man?”

“I will go,” she said.

# Scene 5 – Leaving is a bit tricky...

*A blessed sister*

## **Genesis 24:54b-60**

<sup>59</sup>So they sent their sister Rebekah on her way, along with her nurse and Abraham's servant and his men.

<sup>60</sup>And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“Our sister, may you increase to thousands upon thousands; may your offspring possess the gates of their enemies.”



# Scene 6 – Isaac's Best Day



# Scene 6 – Isaac's Best Day

## Genesis 24:61-67

<sup>61</sup>Then Rebekah and her maids got ready and mounted their camels and went back with the man. So the servant took Rebekah and left.

# Scene 6 – Isaac’s Best Day

## Genesis 24:61-67

<sup>62</sup> Now Isaac had come from Beer Lahai Roi, for he was living in the Negev. <sup>63</sup> He went out to the field one evening to meditate, and as he looked up, he saw camels approaching. <sup>64</sup> Rebekah also looked up and saw Isaac. She got down from her camel <sup>65</sup> and asked the servant, “Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?”

# Scene 6 – Isaac’s Best Day

## Genesis 24:61-67

“He is my master,” the servant answered. So she took her veil and covered herself.

<sup>66</sup>Then the servant told Isaac all he had done. <sup>67</sup>Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

*How the idea of “Best Days” is  
revealed in Scripture*

## Isaiah 57:16-19

<sup>16</sup>I will not accuse them forever, nor will I always be angry, for then they would faint away because of me — the very people I have created. <sup>17</sup>I was enraged by their sinful greed; I punished them, and hid my face in anger, yet they kept on in their willful ways. <sup>18</sup>I have seen their ways, but I will heal them; I will guide them and restore comfort to Israel's mourners, <sup>19</sup>creating praise on their lips. Peace, peace, to those far and near," says the LORD.  
"And I will heal them."

## John 1:1-13, 29

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

## John 1:1-13, 29

<sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — <sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.



## John 1:1-13, 29

<sup>29</sup>The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

## 1 Timothy 6:17

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

## Revelation 21:3-4

<sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people,  
and he will dwell with them. They will be his people,  
and God himself will be with them and be their God.  
<sup>4</sup>He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be  
no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the  
old order of things has passed away.”

# Gospel Application

# Gospel Application

Are you asking God / seeking God  
through amazing prayer?

# Gospel Application

Are you asking God / seeking God  
through amazing prayer?

Do you long for “best days” and enjoy all  
that God has given you?