



## Go! Worship

Session 4 – Worship as a Lifestyle

Genesis 24:1-27

**Key Verse:** *And he said, “O Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham,”* Genesis 24:12 (New Revised Standard Version, NRSV).

### Introduction

“O Jesus, I Have Promised” is a hymn written by John E. Bode. It includes these words:

*O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end; be Thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend. I shall not fear the battle, if Thou are by my side, nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my guide.*

The old song is very much an acknowledgement that we may resolve to do well for ourselves and for others, but we must rely upon God to accomplish anything of merit. Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing” John 15:5 (NRSV). In abiding in Jesus we set ourselves up to see God at work and to rejoice in answers to prayer.

### READ Genesis 24:1-10

Abraham’s wife has recently died and providing an acceptable wife for his son Isaac has become a priority to the patriarch. He instructs his servant to return to Abraham’s homeland to find the right woman. The servant isn’t named, though he might well be Eliezer of Damascus (Genesis 15:2).

- What is the nature of the relationship between Abraham and the servant? (Loyalty, trust)
- Why did Abraham require an oath? (The sworn oath made him accountable to God.)
- What does Jesus teach on the nature of oaths? Read Matthew 5:33-37.

### READ Genesis 24:11-15

- What does the servant do upon reaching Nahor? (He goes to where he might interact with the target population. He offered a prayer to God regarding his mission.)
- What qualities is the servant lifting up before God regarding Isaac’s future bride? (That she be a woman of compassion and industry.)

God answers the prayer even before the servant completed the request. From another verse of Scripture we know that God is aware of our thoughts: “Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.” Psalm 139:4 (NRSV). Furthermore, God has a plan in motion for our issues and concerns: “Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear,” Isaiah 65:24. We should not be surprised at God’s speedy action. What

did Jesus say? “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you,” John 15:7 (NRSV). The servant was praying, interceding for another so that God’s plans would come to pass.

- What prayer has God recently answered for you?
- What prayer remains unanswered for you?
- What prayer has God recently answered for your church’s women’s ministry?
- What prayer remains unanswered for your church’s women’s ministry?

The Apostle John shared these encouraging words, “And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him.” 1 John 5:14-15 (NRSV).

- What is the challenge of this promise?
- What must we be willing to do to when prayers are unanswered?

**READ** Genesis 24:16-27

- What happens in this scene? (Abraham’s servant knows that he has been led to the right place and to the right woman.)
- What is the man’s response? (“He bowed his head and worshipped the Lord,” verse 26.)
- Note that the man did not worship the angel sent before him (verses 7 and 40). He worshipped the Lord.
- Why would he worship God before he had even spoken with the young woman about the marriage proposal? (He knew that God is the covenant God.)

**READ** Genesis 24:28-61

- Why was it necessary for the servant to retell the story of his journey? (It would give glory God and validate his mission - verse 50).

**WHAT SPIRITUAL LESSONS** can we learn from this session? (The story of Abraham’s unnamed servant is an example of a lifestyle of trust and gratitude to God. He is a servant who has taken seriously the work he has been called to do. Words of thanksgiving come to his lips because his specific prayers have been answered. God is real to the servant who obeys.)

**PRAYER:** Good Shepherd, you led us into paths of righteousness for your name’s sake. Let us be your trustworthy servants. Give us daily instructions that we can follow and reassuring hope that you journey with us. And may we often find reason to be joyful and honor you with worship that is from the heart. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.