



GENESIS
Grace from the Beginning

9/10 June 2018
Vol. 40, No. 22

Married at First Sight

Genesis 24

English Services
(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Worship through Fellowship
Baptism (*Morning services*)
Anthem
Worship through Giving
Worship in Music
Scripture Reading
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Benediction

Filipino Service
(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Natatanging Bilang
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Gelo Tuanqui
Pangwakas na Panalangin
at Basbas

See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.



Married at First Sight

Today's Message (9/10 June 2018) /
Genesis 24

YOU CAN DEMAND
FOR GUARANTEES
FROM GOD ALL
YOU WANT, BUT AT
THE END OF THE
DAY, THE ONLY
GUARANTEE WE
HAVE OF GOD IS
HIS UNCHANGING
CHARACTER—THAT
HE LOVES HIS
OWN, THAT HE
NEVER BREAKS HIS
WORD, AND THAT
YOU CAN ALWAYS
BE ASSURED OF
HIS ETERNAL
FAITHFULNESS.

At first glance, this passage is about a miraculous way of finding a spouse (I won't recommend it today). From another view, it seems to be a way of knowing and finding God's will. But what we must not fail to see in all these, is that God, in His covenant faithfulness, provides Rebekah for Isaac in order to continue the line that eventually gives rise to the promised Messiah.

This is all about God's faithfulness in keeping the covenant He makes with His people. God's will is reflected in two institutions He divinely ordained—the church and the family, yet both are under vigorous attack today. It is worth remembering that the God, who started both, will do everything to keep and preserve them for those who faithfully walk with Him. We see that in how He started Isaac's family:

1. GOD PROVIDES GUIDELINES FOR HIS COVENANT PEOPLE TO MAKE WISE DECISIONS.

- In verses 1-9, Abraham instructs his servant on how to find a wife for Isaac.
- Perhaps the most obvious implication is this: Don't carelessly put yourself in situations that make it harder for you to walk with God. Admittedly, you can marry anyone you want. But why shackle yourself to a lifelong obligation where your faith is always a point to battle over? Life is already hard as it is. Why make it harder? Marry within the faith. And without isolating yourself from the lost, make your closest friendships with those who share your faith.

2. GOD, IN RESPONSE TO PRAYER AND OBEDIENCE, SOVEREIGNLY GUIDES HIS CHILDREN TO THE RIGHT OUTCOMES

- Verses 10-27 detail for us the encounter of the servant and Rebekah.
 - Verses 10-14: The servant's prayer
 - Verses 15-27: The answer to his prayer

Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Worship through Fellowship
Worship through Giving
Worship in Music
Doxology
Scripture Reading
Anthem
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Benediction



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Today's Message (9/10 June 2018) /
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- Should we seek for signs today? This is what Jesus had to say in Mark 8:11-13: “Why does this generation ask for a miraculous sign? I tell you the truth, no sign will be given to it.” As Dr. John MacArthur said, “Faith which depends on signs and wonders isn’t faith, it is doubt looking for proof.” If faith can’t believe without signs, it’s not faith at all.
- Real faith is willing to simply pray, and then rely on the faithfulness of an unseen God without demanding signs from Him to keep believing.

3. GOD WILL SOVEREIGNLY SUPERINTEND CIRCUMSTANCES, EVEN THE RESPONSES OF OTHER PEOPLE, AS HE IS RIGHTLY REPRESENTED.

- In verses 28-61, Abraham’s servant meets the family.
- In this long section, we see that things could have gone either way, but realize that God sovereignly superintends circumstances, even the responses of other people, as we rightly represent Him.
- Footnote: Learning ministry from a good servant:
 1. **A good servant is focused on his task:** “I will not eat until I have told you what I have to say” (v. 33).
 2. **A good servant accomplishes through prayer:** “Before I finished praying in my heart...” (v. 45).
 3. **A good servant acknowledges the hand of God in all that he does:** “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...” (v. 48).
 4. **A good servant never wastes time!:** “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” (v. 56).

4. GOD WILL MAKE SURE HIS CHILDREN RECEIVE WHAT IS BEST FOR THEM AS THEY FAITHFULLY WALK WITH HIM (vv. 62-67).

- What were the guarantees that Isaac would love Rebekah? None. What were the guarantees that Rebekah would love Isaac? None. All we know of Rebekah is that she had a good heart (vv. 18-20). All that we know of Isaac is that he was a man of God (v. 63). And yet God made sure that two people married at first sight would be part of His wonderful, eternal plan.
- There are many unknowns in our walk with God. You can demand for guarantees from God all you want, but at the end of the day, the only guarantee we have of God is His unchanging character—that He loves His own, that He never breaks His Word, and that you can always be assured of His eternal faithfulness. And that is all that matters!

FINAL THOUGHTS

God is faithful to His covenant and will do whatever it takes to keep it, by guiding His children and superintending their circumstances ■

THIS WEEKEND'S WORSHIP SERVICES

We welcome back Pastor Larry Pabiona from his time of ministry with the GCF churches in Canada. On this second weekend of June, our Senior Pastor leads us again in our regular study of the book of Genesis. What a wonderful blessing it was in the past few weeks to be ministered to by several preachers and teachers of the Word: Rev. Edmund Chan of the Intentional Disciple-Making Churches movement, Dr. Harold Sala of Guidelines, and Dr. Charles Morris of Haven Ministries. May the Lord find us faithful in the continuous study of Scripture, through our time of Worship in the Word. In a few weeks time, we will take another series break in celebration of Missions Month this July.

On Sunday morning, we will also witness through the 8 and 10:30 a.m. worship services those who will publicly declare their faith and obedience to Christ through the waters of baptism. We attribute this blessing to the gracious hand of God, and His mighty work in and through the lives of even those who ministered to these brothers and sisters of ours. We celebrate with their families!

TECHNICAL CHALLENGES IN AUDITORIUM B

We apologize if the glitches in our sound system have been distracting or bothersome in recent weeks' worship times. Our audio speakers have served us well the past few years, but they currently need more comprehensive repair and maintenance. Thanks to our technical team, we are able to use alternative equipment that still aid in providing a worshipful atmosphere. Were it not for the faithfulness of our God, these would not even be feasible.

CONCERT OF PRAYER ON JUNE 30

We would just like to remind everyone that we still gather every last Saturday of the month for prayer. Also, our Senior Pastor leads a weekly hour of prayer every Tuesday at 6:00 a.m., and we spend a bit more time in intercessory prayer during the Midweek Prayer Service every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.—but the Concert of Prayer is still every last Saturday of the month, from 5-6 p.m. We hope and pray that you can join us for this on June 30 ■

Ablaze Devotional

Now after John was arrested,
Jesus came into Galilee,
proclaiming the gospel of
God, and saying, "The time
is fulfilled, and the kingdom
of God is at hand; repent and
believe in the gospel."

- Mark 1:14-15

In the gospel narrative, we see the kingdom of God in a different light. In the life of Jesus, we see a kingdom that confronts not just the earthly rulers, but one that confronts the things that rule within humanity.

As the "stronger one" that John the Baptist pointed to, Jesus displayed His strength not by force, but by walking in God's love. Led by the Spirit in the wilderness, Jesus displayed what God's love can do in facing the temptation and accusations of Evil. As the beloved Son and as the promised Messiah, Jesus manifested the reality of God's judgment that is of truth and love. Unlike John, Jesus came into Galilee as a wandering prophet, not a stationary one. He went to the people declaring a good news that the kingdom is already in their midst. It was the good news they were waiting for, and it's calling them to repent and believe.

But what does it mean to 'repent and believe'? Surely, it means that Jesus wants the people to stop sinning, but repentance means more than just turning from sin. For Jesus, repentance means two things. First, it means turning away from the social and political agenda that is prevalent in the culture. This is still true in our time as we see propagandas dividing the people into different factions. Second, repentance is a call to faithful allegiance to God. The call to repentance is part of the announcement of God's reign, and without it, the people will miss out on the new thing God is doing.

Jesus is not announcing a kingdom that can only be realized in some other place and/or some other time. The gospel is not about an otherworldly religion: "The time is now, the kingdom of God is here."

Let us heed Christ's call to repentance and begin to marvel and partake in His kingdom work ■

GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS AT THE CHAPEL:

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements



HARVEST-WETFOOT BAZĀRU

In support of Harvest STM to Japan

June 16 & 17 (Sat-Sun) at the Fellowship Hall

You may donate your next-to-new items for selling at the bazaar until **June 15 (Fri)**. For more information, please contact **0921 024 4782**.



YA TALK 3: CAREER CROSSROADS

Dealing with career shifts and transitions

June 23 (Sat), at the 6/F Youth Center

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; **Everyone** is invited

Contact **0917 532 7741** to register/for more info



BEAUTY FROM ASHES

S.H.E. Fellowship, a ministry for God's single women

June 30 (Sat), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Auditorium B

All single women and single moms are invited

Contact **0917 532 7725** to register/for more info

Registration is **free**



CAMP LIVE: VERIFIED

Youth camp for college students

July 19-22 (Thu-Sun) at Batangas Country Club

For more details/to register, please visit the Youth L.I.V.E. Camp booth at the G/F lobby.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

June 2018

	June Budget	Received, June 1-3
General	7,923,567	1,764,123
Missions	927,000	107,050
	Jan. - June Budget	Received, Jan. - June
General	53,877,211	39,588,860
Missions	5,562,000	5,784,091

Flower Ministry

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to our God for His grace and mercy by the Basilad family, the Lim family, the Messiah College and by an anonymous donor.

Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.



Loving God and Loving Others through DVBS

by Teacher Grace de Guzman

Love is an action that we express to others through sharing and serving, and God instructed us to demonstrate unconditional love. One of the ways I was able to graciously practice love was with the children of the recent Daily Vacation Bible School (DVBS), along with their parents and my co-servants in this ministry.

Serving in the Children's Ministry as part of DVBS tested how I express my love for God and others. It tested my patience in various ways. At DVBS, people with different stories, homes, cultures, background, and maturity levels all come together through God, and establishing a fruitful and loving relationship with them may not be smooth. However, that is where the grace and power of God is seen. His love and our love for Him serves as the key in breaking barriers and boundaries.

In loving our kids, we all need to accept them wholeheartedly. They are all children of God and we ought to love them and should never reject any of them. Jesus died for us because we have weaknesses and imperfections, and He did the same for children. God wants us to love the children exactly how He made them.

Loving and being with these children at DVBS was one of the most exhilarating things I have experienced. I felt excitement stirring in me whenever I did something to make them loved and cared for. There is a different kind of joy when I tell and share Christ to them, knowing that this will bring holistic change in their young lives.

As we ended DVBS 2018, we prayed that these little ones will seek God in their lives and ask the Holy Spirit to help them grow in their love toward Jesus. We hope that your prayer for these little ones will be the same as ours also ■

ON THE COVER: *Isaac's servant tying the bracelet on Rebecca's arm* (1775) by English-American painter Benjamin West (*Wikimedia, public domain*). According to Matthew Henry's commentary on Genesis 24, this gesture by the servant was meant to honor Rebekah and to show the wealth of his master.

Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

Pass by the GGEX (Growth Group Express)!

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room B124
Get a feel of what a Growth Group is like before you participate in one. Come and join us!

Life in Technicolor Support Group for cancer patients

Every 3rd Sunday of the month
12:00-3:00 p.m. at the Seniors' Room

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

8 a.m.: Ages 1-3, B415; Ages 4-5, B410; Age 6, B414; Age 7, B403; Age 8, B413, Ages 9-10, B411; Ages 11-12, B409; Transition Age 13, B406

10:30 a.m.: Ages 1-2, B412; Age 3, B415; Age 4, B408; Age 5, B410; Age 6A, B402; Age 6B, B403; Age 7, B401; Age 8, B413; Age 9, B411; Age 10, B414; Age 11, B409; Age 12, B405; Transition Age 13, B406

3 p.m.: Ages 1-5, B415; Ages 6-9, B402; Ages 10-12, B403

5:30 p.m.: Ages 1-5, B415; Age 6, B402; Ages 7-9, B401; Ages 10-12, B403; Transition Age 13, B404

Nursery: 2nd flr. for nursing moms and babies aged one week to 11 months old

Yayas: 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., B404

Sunday School Parents' Class:

9:30 a.m., B406

If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form inside this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag or submit it to the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 7740.

2nd GG Leaders' Assembly

Topic: How to Start a New Small Group
June 30 (Sat.), 3-5 p.m., Fellowship Hall



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357

Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

How may we
SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Year of membership: _____

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

*Today is **9/10 June 2018**, and I attended the
8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m.
or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory” *(Isaiah 6:3)*. **He requires holiness of us as well:** “Be holy, for I am holy” *(1 Peter 1:16)*.

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” *(Romans 3:23)*.
Sin demands a penalty: “For the wages of sin is death” *(Romans 6:23)*.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” *(Romans 5:8)*. **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God” *(1 Peter 3:18)*. **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them” *(2 Corinthians 5:18)*.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” *(Romans 10:9)*.

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.