Rebekah is one of the most significant women in the Old Testament, married to the patriarch Isaac, son of Abraham, father of Israel. Her story begins so beautifully with Abraham’s servant (most likely Eliezar) being sent in pursuit of a wife for his beloved son. Rebekah proved herself to be God’s choice! Isaac loved Rebekah and she was his comfort after his mother’s death. One highlight of the love story of Isaac and Rebekah is that we never read of Isaac having another wife or concubine. Rebekah was his only love. It is disheartening, therefore, to see that Rebekah’s love of Isaac was so imperfect. Not only did she choose one son above the other, but she chose her son above her husband. As always, when God’s ways are disregarded, sorrow for all is the result. We will begin by looking at what Scripture says about Rebekah. This is her story.

As with many of the women we are studying this year, Rebekah’s story requires much reading. Please read the following verses and, in a few sentences, summarize the events described there:

**Genesis 24:1-28**

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**Genesis 24:50-67**

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**Genesis 25:19-36**

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Genesis 27:1-35

What was Rebekah’s sorrow?  
What was her joy?  
What did she learn?  

Second Day

Rebekah’s name probably means “loop,” or “tie.”

Today we will be looking at the character of Rebekah. Consider the Scriptures you have read on Rebekah’s life and use the following words to describe her:

- Her strength
- Her weakness
- Her faith
- Her doubt
It’s amazing how many facets there can be to a person’s character. We can see someone so strong on one point and so weak on another. Was Rebekah strength due to her youth? Did her weakness come with old age? Had she begun in the spirit and ended in the flesh? We will never quite understand what happened to the Rebekah, who said yes to Abraham’s servant, so full of faith in God, but who took things into her own hands when her favorite son’s spiritual inheritance was at stake.

What characteristic of Rebekah would you most like to emulate and why? ________________

What characteristic of Rebekah would you most like to avoid and why? ________________

○ Is there anything in your character that resembles a negative aspect of Rebekah’s character? What might you do right now to begin making corrections in this area?

What do you learn from Rebekah? ________________

**Third Day**

**Her Hope**

“And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.” (Luke 1:45 NASB)

Today we will focus in on Rebekah’s *hope*. We will be looking specifically at the portion of her story given in Genesis 25:21-26. You may wish to reread these verses for today’s study. From what you have studied about Rebekah this week:

What was her *need*? ________________

What was her *hope*? ________________

What was God’s *promise*? ________________
If we take a careful look at these verses we see a couple of significant things. One is that Rebekah was barren for a period of 20 years. Genesis 25:20 tells us that Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah and verse 26 says that he was 60 when Rebekah gave birth to Esau and Jacob. As we have studied the women of the Bible we have often witnessed this very scene! We saw it with Hannah, Sarah, and Elizabeth; each chosen to bring forth children who would be significant to the history of Israel; each barren for many years before the significant child was born. In Sarah’s case we are told that it was at the appointed time that Isaac was born. That would seem to be the case with each of these women: God's master plan determining exactly when each of these chosen children would enter this world!

Another notable thing in this passage is that a promise concerning the future of Rebekah’s boys was given directly to her while she was pregnant. Verse 23 specifically says: “And the Lord said to her, ‘Two nations are in your womb; and two peoples shall be separated from your body; and one people shall be stronger than the other; and the older shall serve the younger.’”

- Because of this promise of God, what did Rebekah know about Esau and Jacob even before they were born?
- With the promise in mind, was it necessary for Rebekah to do anything to assist in the proper placement of the blessing?
- Had Rebekah remained prayerful about the situation, putting her trust in God, can you think of some ways the Lord might have intervened, causing the blessing to rest on Jacob in spite of Isaac’s intent to bless Esau?

God’s ways are always above ours. He is the all-creative one. He would have had no problem bringing about His will in this situation, no matter what Isaac planned, thought, or intended.

The result of Rebekah’s manipulation of things that were not hers to touch brought great sorrow to all involved. The relationship between Isaac and Rebekah would never be the same again. Esau would never trust his mother or his brother again, and even desired to see his brother dead. Jacob had to leave his family and friends and go to another land for personal safety, and Rebekah never saw this son that she had loved so much again.

Memory Verse:

Why is it that we never need to manipulate the things that are promised to us by God? Because God is always able to bring about His will, even when stubborn human beings are involved! II Corinthians 1:20 says: “For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” This is our memory verse this week – begin memorizing it today!
Fourth Day

Her Gifts

How important are first impressions? Very important! Can you think of a time when you were introduced to someone and you wanted to put your best foot forward to make the right impression? Or how about the time when the shoe was on the other foot and the person you were being introduced to wanted to impress you? Most everyone wants to get off on the right foot when meeting someone for the first time. Often what comes across in that initial contact through a smile, a handshake, a kind word or a deed will leave a lasting remembrance.

It was no different for Rebekah. Eliezer arrived at the well in Nahor and prayed for God to bring him the woman He had appointed for Isaac. Eliezer asked that she would be someone who would not only offer him a drink of water, but who would also be willing to draw water for all ten of his camels. Perhaps he made this request knowing it was a tall order and that only someone with a true servant’s heart would be willing to comply. After all, the average camel is capable of drinking twenty-five gallons after a long journey. (You do the math: ten camels times twenty-five gallons each!) How big do you think Rebekah’s pitcher was and how many trips do you suppose she made from the well to the trough and back before those animals were satisfied? Realistically, it would seem that only the heart filled full of God would be able to pour so much of herself into that kind of menial service. That is exactly the kind of person Eliezer was hoping to meet.

In your opinion, what value do you think God places on a servant’s heart? Please share your thoughts.

The Lord Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew 10:41b-42 (NLT): “If you welcome good and godly people because of their godliness, you will be given a reward like them. And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of My followers, you will surely be rewarded.”

Rebekah had no idea of the reward awaiting her for her kind act. Without hesitation, she saw a need and responded over and above what was asked of her and, in volunteering for the second mile of service, she revealed herself as the one chosen by God.

How do you feel about rolling up your sleeves and taking on some difficult dirty work?

Is there a limit to how much or what kind of work you would be willing to do to help another in need?
Can you cite a recent example of going the second mile to assist someone who needed your help? __________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

What was your motive in helping that individual? Were you expecting something in return for your cup of cold water? __________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Did you, in fact, receive a reward for being kind? __________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Paul the apostle beautifully describes for us Christ’s example of humility and how far He was willing to go to serve. Carefully read this passage in Philippians 2:5-15.

In your own words, briefly describe the mind of Christ God wants you to have in your service:
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

  o Do you exhibit this mind in your service?
  o Who is it that works in you and for what purpose?
  o Do you serve without murmuring or complaining?
  o Can you sense God’s pleasure in your service?
  o Do you shine as a light in this dark world?
  o Are you so full of God that your actions reveal someone He has chosen and set apart for Himself?

Think back to when you first met Christ. Remember your first impressions of Him, His love for you, and how much you wanted to please Him above all else. Remember when you first began to serve Him, extending a helping hand to anyone He brought your way. Those first impressions should not only have endured in your mind, they should have become engraved on your heart, motivating you to want to be His servant. The need is great, the call is for all who will hear it, and the reward is an eternal one!
Fifth Day  Her Legacy

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” (Romans 15:4)

How will you be remembered?  How would you like to be remembered?  What will you leave behind of benefit for others?  What you do and say today will leave imprints for others to view tomorrow.

Taking a closer look…

○ What impression did Rebekah leave with you this week?

○ How might her example impact women in today’s world?

Taking a personal look…

○ What did you learn this week about the value God places on developing a servant’s heart?

○ When your service becomes difficult, God may be doing His deeper work in your life.  What did Rebekah’s story reveal to you about yourself as a servant of God?

Passing it on…

○ What lesson from Rebekah’s life do you consider worth passing on to someone else?
Sixth Day  

Your Prayer

Each day this week you have examined up close – face to face – a woman of the Bible: her story and manner; her promise and hope; her gifts and legacy. Throughout the process, as you learned about her, you also learned about yourself.

Now the focus shifts to Your Prayer. Each week during your group time you will have the opportunity to pray in agreement with the other ladies for the things you write down on this personalized page. Keep an updated account in the Praise list each week as God answers your petitions. This year let’s come boldly to His throne and learn to pray the BIG PRAYER with expectancy! The only prerequisite for such boldness is being humble and real in His presence.

Prayer: Write out your prayer for each of the following…

I praise God for (an aspect of His marvelous character)______________________________

I confess to God_______________________________________________________________

I thank God for_______________________________________________________________

I ask God for_______________________________________________________________

Promise: Write out this week’s promise in the space provided…and learn to pray this promise from Scripture.

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

Praise: If God has answered a prayer request for you this week or fulfilled a desire of your heart, please write it out and date it as a stone of remembrance.

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________