

Learning to Love

Isaac and Rebekah

Genesis 24

*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. **Genesis 24:67***

*go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac.”
Genesis 24:4*

*Then he prayed, “O Lord, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. **Genesis 24:12-13***

*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.”
Genesis 24:14*

*Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder.
Genesis 24:15a*

Criteria that God Used in Selecting a Mate

- Energetic worker
- Similar _____
- Attractive appearance
- Moral _____
- Congenial personality
- Easy-going personality
- S_____ maturity

*The servant hurried to meet her and said, “Please give me a little water from your jar.” “Drink, my lord,” she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink
Genesis 24:17-18*

*After she had given him a drink, she said, “I’ll draw water for your camels too, until they have finished drinking.” 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. **Genesis 24:19-20***

Laban and Bethuel answered, "This is from the Lord; we can say nothing to you one way or the other. Here is Rebekah; take her and go, and let her become the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has directed." **Genesis 24:50-51**

*Then they said, "Let's call the girl and ask her about it." So they called Rebekah and asked her, "Will you go with this man?"
"I will go," she said.*
Genesis 24:57-58

He went out to the field one evening to meditate, and as he looked up, he saw camels approaching. **Genesis 24:63**

*Rebekah also looked up and saw Isaac.
She got down from her camel and asked the servant, "Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?"
"He is my master," the servant answered. So she took her veil and covered herself.*
Genesis 24:64-65

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. **Genesis 24:67**

Practical application from the story of—Isaac and Rebekah.

1. Love is an act of the _____ , not just an emotion of the heart.

Romantic love is the result of a right relationship, but it is not the basis of it.

The more intense the infatuation, the more precarious the relationship.

2. The Bible speaks about a deeper level than _____—agape love
Practical application from the story of —Isaac and Rebekah.

*"To give yourself to another person regardless of feelings.
To do the right thing regardless of personal feelings."
—Biblical Love, "Agape" (Greek)*

Biblical Love (agape) can be _____

- The Bible commands us to love
- Testimonies of so many Christian marriages demonstrate that we can "learn to love"

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her
Ephesians 5:25

Seven things that you can do to rekindle love in your marriage

1. Make a commitment to your partner exclusively
2. Pray for God's power to transform your _____

*Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren. The Lord answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. **Genesis 25:21***

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, **Ephesians 3:20***

3. Dedicate yourself to fulfilling your _____ needs, instead of focusing on your unmet needs

Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.
Luke 17:33

"What oxygen is to your body, communication is to a relationship."

*When Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked down from a window and saw Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah. **Genesis 26:8***

The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband.
1 Corinthians 7:3-4a

*Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. **1 Corinthians 7:5***

Seven things that you can do to rekindle love in your marriage

4. Deliberately act the way you wish you _____
5. Spend time together just the two of you alone
6. Restore sexual intimacy to your marriage, right now
7. Develop _____ maturity

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **Matthew 6:33***

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. **Philippians 2:3-4***

Key: background, purity, Spiritual, will, infatuation, learned, feelings, mate's, felt, spiritual