



**Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide:
Something In the Water Week 3: July 21, 2019**

Recap:

- In the ancient world, tribes existed for their own well-being and preservation. Abraham's tribe, on the other hand, was called to live for the well-being and welfare of others. The Biblical concept of loving-kindness is about going beyond blessing yourself and your family and to blessing others.
- The story of Rebekah interactions with Abraham's servant Eliezer at the well reflects the loving-kindness and commitment we should show to others.
- Our relationship with God should drive us to have compassion on those in need and use our resources to bless others; however, we should not do these things to get God's approval. Acts of loving-kindness should be done because of what God has done within us.
- When we love and serve, Jesus tells us we are experiencing God's desire for this world.

Discuss:

1. In what ways is it difficult to judge the character of someone you have just met? How much stock do you put in first impressions?
2. Are there certain traits that stand out more than others from a first impression?
3. READ GENESIS 24:10-14
4. Based on what you know of the ancient world, or your own thoughts, what do you think were, or could have been, the initial characteristics that Eliezer was looking for in a wife for Isaac?
5. READ GENESIS 24:15-20
6. Does anything stand out to you about Eliezer's prayer? If so, what is it?
7. What becomes the primary thing that Eliezer is looking for in a wife for Isaac? How would you describe, in modern language, the kind of person he is now seeking as an answer to that prayer?
8. READ MATTHEW 25:31-46
9. How do you think this passage connects to the story of Rebekah and Eliezer? What similarities do you see in Rebekah that you see Jesus desiring of his followers?
10. Why do you think this passage is so difficult to follow? Why do you think Jesus makes serving the hungry, poor, sick, thirsty, and lonely a sign of being a part of the Kingdom of God?
11. What are some ways you can encourage service in your small circle or family?

Pray: Invite members of your group to share prayer requests. Give a short prayer thanking God for your group discussion and asking God to be with the requests that have been shared.

Read at Home: Old Testament Readings about Treating Strangers

- DEUTERONOMY 10:12-22
- JEREMIAH 22:1-5
- 1 JOHN 3:16-24