

*Sermon Questions for Life Groups*  
***Faith, Prayer & Providence – Genesis 24***

**Pastor John Mahaffey**

**Sunday, March 29, 2015**

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions or family or personal devotions*

1. What can we learn from Abraham's strong insistence that Isaac not marry from women who lived around them? What can we learn from this story about choosing a life-partner?
2. What evidences are there of the faith of Abraham, the faith of his servant and the faith of Rebekah?
3. Trace God's hand in this story. What can we learn about God's faithfulness, guidance and providence?
4. How do you acknowledge God's providence in your life? Are others around you aware of it?
5. In Judges 6: 36 – 38, we read of another instance in Scripture where an individual, (in this case, Gideon) asks God to reveal to him a specific sign as a means of validating or confirming God's will. Share with the group if you have ever prayed for a specific sign and what was the outcome? Is this construed to be a miracle or part of God's providence and what is the difference?
6. Rebekah went overboard in meeting the needs of Abraham's servant. Has God ever surprised you with His bounty?
7. Rebekah makes a public declaration of her faith that God is leading in her life (vs. 57). How ready are you to declare such faith in God to others? Have you?

8. Pastor John spoke of both providence and miracles. How should we differentiate between these ways that God works? Give an example from the Bible of each of these methods.
  
9. We have a tendency to look for miracles or signs that as direction from God. Why do you think we want God to perform signs and miracles instead of looking for His providence? What does this say about our faith and understanding of God?
  
10. Read Exodus chapter 16. This is the story of God giving the Israelites manna and quail. Which part of God's provision for Israel is a miracle and which part is the providence of God? Why do you think God chose to have the Israelites provided for in such a way?
  
11. How has God comforted you in times of loss (eg Isaac, vs 67)?
  
12. How do you respond to Pastor John's final points:
  - God is always faithful
  - God helps those who trust in Him
  - God is always going before you
  - You have to be moving to be guided
  - The providence of God is the usual way God leads us, not miracles
  
13. Discuss, with Scripture where possible, the concept of God's specific will for our lives (down to the minutest decisions) vs. God's general will. What factors should be considered as we are faced with a specific decision? [One of our question authors recommends the following book on this subject by Garry Friesen with J. Robin Maxson: *Decision Making and the Will of Gdo.* (Multnomah Press, 1981)].
  
14. In what way is this story an outworking of the truth found in Proverbs 3:5-6?
  
15. We learned in the after-service meeting that members at Hughson St give an average of twice what people at West Highland give? How does that make you feel?