[**TIME ALONE WITH GOD**](http://timealonewithgod.org/)

Ingredients:

* Half an hour, every day.
* Quiet, so you focus on yourself and on God;
* Prayer, worship, thanksgiving, as your response to God
* Word, so you can ponder His truth
* Life, people and events, so you are aware of Him in these situations

Method:

* Time – a fixed time when you are unlikely to be interrupted is best but more important is to actually start having such a time with God.
* Quiet – A simple method is to be quiet until you are aware you are in God’s presence before you start to respond to Him.
* Word – Read and be familiar with what is said. Meditate on the Word: “What does it say?” “What does it mean?” “How should I respond?” You may use the questions to help you or set them aside.
* Life – Use the time to also be aware of the things that are happening, inside you and around you. Bring these before God and speak to Him.

# Monday

[**GENESIS 24:1-9**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2024&version=NIV)

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. Read the text until you can understand what it says. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. *“I want you to swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living… ”* Why is it important to Abraham that Isaac does not marry a Canaanite?
3. *“Make sure that you do not take my son back there (meaning Abraham’s home country).”* Why is it important to Abraham that Isaac does not return to his home country? What does this tell you about how Abraham feels about God and his promises? Do you feel the same?
4. *“... he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there. If the woman is unwilling to come back with you, then you will be released from this oath of mine. Only do not take my son back there.”* Abraham did not say that God had revealed to him what he would do. He takes by faith that God will be looking after Isaac’s interests (which is why he adds an escape clause for the servant should it not come to pass). At this point Abraham was very old (see v1) and has walked with God for a long time and has been blessed richly by him. How would you describe Abraham’s relationship with God?
5. *“The Lord, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father’s household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, ‘To your offspring I will give this land.’”* How does Abraham describe God? Essentially Abraham knows God as per what God has promised and done in his life. Do you know God in this way? How would you describe the God in your life? Who is God to you? Write down a prayer in response to him.

# Tuesday

[**GENESIS 24:1-9**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2024&version=NIV)

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Read the passage. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down yesterday. Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Review the past day. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
4. Write down a prayer in response.

# Wednesday

[**GENESIS 24:10-27**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2024&version=NIV)

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. Read the text until you can understand what it says. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. The servant calls God, *“God of my master Abraham”*. Does that mean that he is not a believer and does not worship God?
3. *“May it be that when I say to a young woman, ‘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.”* Essentially the servant asked God for a sign of his presence and involvement. Do you think he was right to do so? Would you ask for a sign from God to indicate his will or his choice for yourself? Why or why not?
4. *“I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son that Milkah bore to Nahor.”* The servant carefully ascertained Rebekah’s parentage before confirming that God indeed had led him to the right person. What do you think of the servant’s stewardship of his master’s request and his own oath? Are you a good steward of your Master’s will?
5. *Then the man bowed down and worshiped the Lord, saying, “Praise be to the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned his kindness and faithfulness to my master. As for me, the Lord has led me on the journey to the house of my master’s relatives.”* “As for me …” At this point, the servant has a personal experience of God. What do you think of the servant’s response? Would you respond differently?
6. The servant who knows his place would not claim anything of his master as his own; thus God is the God of his master Abraham. Yet the servant knows enough of the God of Abraham to pray to him in simple faith to ask for his guidance and help in a task clearly beyond him. How would the servant describe God, now that he has a direct personal experience of him? Write down a prayer in response.

# Thursday

[**GENESIS 24:10-27**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2024&version=NIV)

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Read the passage. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down yesterday. Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Review the past day. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
4. Write down a prayer in response.

# Friday

[**GENESIS 24:28-67**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2024&version=NIV)

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. Read the text until you can understand what it says. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. *“I will not eat until I have told you what I have to say.”* What he had to say was essentially the whole story but it has become a story not of Abraham’s concerns and instructions but of God’s will. See Laban’s conclusion from the story: *“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.”* Think over your life as a follower of Jesus: Do you have stories of how he has acted in your life? Are there clear expressions of his will and direction that you needed to obey? Is there an urgency in you to do his will?
3. *“I will go,” she said.* Why do you think she said yes?
4. *“(Isaac) went out to the field one evening to meditate, and as he looked up, he saw camels approaching.”* This was the beginning of Isaac’s story of his own experience of God’s hand on his life. What did this whole episode mean to Isaac?
5. It is one thing to know God from his Word but God does not exist in ideas and concepts; he exists in time and space—in real life. Do you know God in real life? Do you have real life experiences with him? Write down a prayer in response.

# Saturday

[**GENESIS 24:28-67**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2024&version=NIV)

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Read the passage. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down yesterday. Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Review the past day. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
4. Write down a prayer in response.

# Sunday

**LIVING FAITH**

In the days of Abraham the bible did not exist. There were no Sunday Schools, sermons, worship songs. It was just one man getting to know God, believing his promises, following his instructions. This, in essence, is what it means to walk with God.

Even the servant knew Abraham’s God, as he told Laban, *“I am Abraham’s servant. The Lord has blessed my master abundantly, and he has become wealthy. He has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys.”*

When he bowed down and worshiped God after finding Rebekah, he said, *“Praise be to the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned his kindness and faithfulness to my master.”* He knew of God’s kindness and faithfulness.

And, humbly, he acknowledged that this God had been personally leading him and watching over him in his journey to serve his Master. *“As for me, the Lord has led me on the journey to the house of my master’s relatives.”* This, he acknowledged, was God’s kindness to him.

Rebekah could not have known much of Abraham’s God. Perhaps some stories of her granduncle who went away to pursue an ideal, a dream, a voice in his head, God? Yet it seems that this God has led this man to her home, to seek her to be a bride for his master’s son. What led her to say yes? A romantic notion? The wealth of Abraham bequeathed to his son? To me it was the intriguing prospect of knowing this God.

When Isaac looked up and saw camels approaching, his life was about to change. We learned of his mother’s death in chapter 23. His father is already very old. As the camels arrive, bearing his future bride and a story of how God had led the servant to her, Isaac finds comfort.

The God of Genesis 24 is your God today. Even more so, with your status as his child because of Jesus Christ, and with the presence of the Holy Spirit in you. Yet did these people have a more intimate knowledge and experience of God than you do? Is your God confined to the pages of your Bible, or is he alive and powerfully involved in your life today?

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down in the past week. What conclusion can you draw from the passages of Scripture you have been considering? Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Read the short sharing above. Do they add anything to your own conclusions?
4. Review the past week. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
5. Write down a prayer in response.