

Day 4 *Kindness*

Silence (2 minutes) Take some time to be quiet, to calm down, and to listen. What has God been teaching you? What are the next steps He wants you to take? How is your spirit doing?

Scripture Then he prayed, *"LORD, God of my master Abraham, make me successful today, and show kindness to my master Abraham."* Genesis 24:12

Discussion Abraham has commissioned his most trusted servant with the important task of finding a wife for Abraham's only son Isaac from among Abraham's relatives who live far away. When the servant asked what he should do if the woman is unwilling to come back with him, Abraham said that God would send his angel ahead of the servant. So, the servant has arrived in Abraham's former homeland and in this passage he lays out his request to God. He appears to trust Abraham's word, that God did prepare the way for him. He speaks to God, acknowledging that He is real and is Abraham's God. (Abraham's speech and behavior must have shown the servant that the Lord is Abraham's God.) He requests that God assist him to be successful in his task and acknowledges that He is a God who shows kindness. In the following passages he lays out to God his specific request for identifying the right woman and God exactly fulfills that request. Are we like that servant? Do we trust that God is real and kind, that He knows and is involved in the details of our lives? Do we trust that enough to talk to Him, acknowledging He is real and acknowledging His character, that He is kind. Do we tell Him the details of our concerns? God is kind and *"...anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him"* (Heb. 11:6).

Application Our trust in God's kindness is not only about our internal maturation in our Christian walk. The kindness we show others is a direct outpouring of how much we trust God with our lives! Do you find it easy to come to God in repentance? Do you trust that God earnestly desires be close to you and deal kindly with you as you seek to obey Him and show kindness to others? Ask God to renew your trust in His kindness and take time each morning this week to ask yourself: how can I truly trust in God's kindness today?

Prayer God of Abraham, God of Abraham's servant, You are my God too. You were real when Abraham lived this life and You continue to be real. I praise You that You are real, alive, powerful, wise, and kind. Thank You that You know the details of my life and You want me to tell You my thoughts, desires, and emotions. You want to know me. I praise You and thank You that You are kind; that You are kind to me. May I always trust and acknowledge that You are kind; in easy and in difficult or painful times, whether I understand or not, and whether I can see the results of a situation or not. Praise You, God of Abraham. Amen.

Silence (2 minutes) Talk to God about what you are learning. What are your fears? Where are your hangups? Pray for direction.

Scripture Memory for the week: *"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."* Colossians 3:12

