

to what we ask of him. How would that affect your life? Take a minute to think about this. Then I will give you further instructions.

(60 Second Pause)

Now share with someone sitting nearby what your thoughts were about not being able to go to God anymore with your prayer requests.

(60 Second Pause)

This time turn back to the same people with whom you were just speaking and pray short expressions of thanks to God that he is someone who still hears and answers prayer.

(60 Second Pause)

(Begin Scripture Reading)

Scripture Reading (1)

Psalm 91

- Reader 1:** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
- Reader 2:** I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.
- Reader 3:** *Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.*
- Reader 1:** He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
- Reader 2:** You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.
- Reader 3:** *A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.*
- Reader 1:** You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.
- Reader 2:** If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the LORD, who is my refuge—then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent.

- Reader 3:** *For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.*
- Reader 1:** You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.
- Reader 2:** “Because he loves me”, says the LORD, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
- Reader 3:** *He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation.*

Scripture Reading (2)

(Before Sermon)

Genesis 24:1-27

Narrator: male or female

Abraham: old gentleman

Servant: man in 40's or 50's

Rebecca: young woman

Narrator: Genesis 24: 1-27, Abraham was no old and well advanced in years, and the LORD had blessed him in every way. He said to the chief servant in his household, the one in charge of all that he had,

Abraham: Put your hand under my thigh. 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, but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac.

Narrator: The servant asked him.

Servant: *What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to this land? Shall I then take your son back to the country you came from?”*

Abraham: “Make sure that you do not take my son back there,”

Narrator: Abraham said,

Abraham: “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'—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.”

Narrator: So the servant put his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham and swore an oath to him concerning this matter. Then the servant took ten of his master’s camels and left, taking with him all kinds of good things from his master. He set out for Aram Naharaim and made his way to the town of Nahor. He had the camels kneel down near the well outside the town; it was toward evening, the time the women go out to draw water. Then he prayed,

Servant: *“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, 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.”*

Narrator: Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, who was the wife of Abraham’s brother Nahor. The girl was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had ever lain with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar and came up again. The servant hurried to meet her and said,

Servant: *“Please give me a little water from your jar.”*

Rebekah: *“Drink, my lord,”*

Narrator: she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink. After she had given him a drink, she said,

Rebekah: *“I’ll draw water for your camels too, until they have finished drinking.”*

Narrator: 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. Without saying a word, the man watched her closely to learn whether or not the LORD had made his journey successful. When the camels had finished drinking, the man took out a gold nose ring weighing a beka and two gold bracelets weighing ten shekels. Then he asked,

Servant: *“Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room in your father’s house for us to spend the night?”*

Narrator: She answered him,
Rebekah: *“I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son that Milcah bore to Nahor.”*
Narrator: And she added,
Rebekah: *“We have plenty of straw and fodder, as well as room for you to spend the night.”*
Narrator: Then the man bowed down and worshiped the LORD saying,
Servant: *“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.”*

Book Reading

From “The God Hunt” by Karen Mains

SPIRITUAL TRAIL SIGNS

In the films *The Gods Must Be Crazy, Part I* and *Part II*, an enchanting contrast is built between the illiteracy of people today regarding the ways of the deep Kalahari of Africa and the sophisticated tracking knowledge of the Bushman, Xixo. “In the morning they like to read the news,” the narrator says, as the tribe members bend over tracks in the earth. “The hyena has a new girlfriend; the cheetah has lost one of her babies; the orax is starting to migrate to the West.”

In the second film, through a series of absurd incidents, Dr. Ann Taylor has been stranded in the wild, and the path of the white woman and the little man cross. Xixo observes that she is quite illiterate—she can’t read any of the trail signs in the ground.

Like Dr. Taylor in this film, we are too often illiterate regarding spiritual trail signs. We have not been taught to hunt for God in the everyday, yet all we need to do is ask, “Has the tracking God crossed my path in any tangible way today?”

The patriarchs, kings and prophets encountered the living God in the Old Testament. Commoners, men and women of ordinary means, children, slaves, wives and husbands knew moments impregnated with the holy. The New Testament world experienced God in the flesh, through Christ. Now we, today, can experience God in the everyday through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, the very Spirit of Jesus who works to make himself knowable within our own souls and comprehensible as he intervenes in the commonplace around us. As we search for God in the everyday, the Holy Spirit enlightens the Scriptures when we look to them. Our physical eyes are given the gift of seeing the nature of God in the created world around us, and our spiritual sight is enabled so we can observe him working in the daily incidents, both good and bad, that he can make meaningful if we allow it.

Congregational Music After Sermon

(God Answers Prayer)

I Must Tell Jesus

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord

Come, Ye Disconsolate

Like a River Glorious

I Need Thee Every Hour

Congregational Response Music

Seek and Ye Shall Find

Come, My Soul, Thy Suit Prepare

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Book Table

Additional Resources that add to this message

1. I Spy God – A God Hunt Book for Kids
2. God Hunt Diary
3. The God Hunt by Karen Mains

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