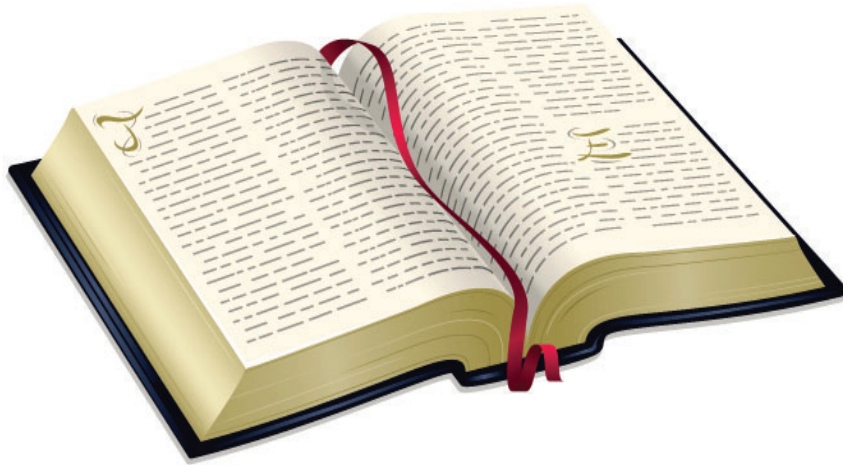


# toServe Bible Study - ITB-06

## Answer Sheet - New Living Translation (NLT)



### In The Beginning Series

### Twelve Lesson Study on the Book of Genesis

### This Lesson - Genesis Chapter 21 - 24

**Genesis 21** begins with the long-awaited birth of the son God had promised to Abraham and Sarah. This is the child through whom God would make of Abraham a great nation (Genesis 17:6–7). More recently, the Lord had promised both Abraham and Sarah that they would conceive and bear a son within a year’s time. Both of them laughed (Genesis 17:17; Genesis 18:12). God said the name of their son would be Isaac, which means laughter (Genesis 17:19).

Now the time has come. The Lord visits Sarah. She and Abraham conceive, just as God said, just as He promised (Genesis 18:14). At the ages of 100 and 90 respectively, Abraham and Sarah become parents. Sarah bears Abraham a son, full of joy at the laughter He has brought to her (Genesis 21:1–7).

That joy sours though, after Isaac is weaned. Sarah sees Abraham’s son through Hagar, Ishmael, laughing. She seems to think this is directed at little Isaac. Ishmael is Abraham’s firstborn son, born to him by Sarah’s own Egyptian slave girl Hagar, at Sarah’s insistence. Now though, Sarah furiously demands that Abraham cast Hagar and Ishmael out into the wilderness to eliminate any possibility that Hagar’s son will share the inheritance with her Isaac (Genesis 21:8–10).

## Chapter 21

1. (Genesis 21:4) Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son and he called him Isaac.

What is one of the first things Abraham does with Isaac? Abraham circumcised him

When did he do it? Eight days after Isaac was born

Why did he do it? God had commanded.

2. (Genesis 21:5) How old was Abraham when his son Isaac was born? 100 years old

3. (Genesis 21:10) After Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, borne to Abraham, scoffing/mockng/laughing/making fun of her son Isaac, what did she tell Abraham to do, and why?

“Get rid of that slave woman and her son.

He is not going to share the inheritance with my son, Isaac.

4. (Genesis 21:12) What did God tell Abraham to reassure him of Isaac’s inheritance?

Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted.

5. (Genesis 21:14) Abraham took bread and water and sent Hagar and the boy/child on their way. Where did they wander? in the wilderness of Beersheba.

6. (Genesis 21:17) After God heard the voice of the lad/boy crying in the wilderness, who called out to Hagar? the angel of God called to Hagar

7. (Genesis 21:18) What promise does God renew to Hagar about her son Ishmael?

I will make a great nation from his descendants.

8. (Genesis 21:22) What did Abimelech notice about the relationship between Abraham and God? “God is obviously with you, helping you in everything you do,”

## Understanding Genesis 21:23-32 - A Covenant between Abimelech and Abraham

Abimelech wanted to have a good relationship with Abraham and share in his blessing.

To that end Abimelech came with a request that Abraham would swear to several things by God. First, he asked Abraham to swear not to be deceptive with him or his descendants or even those who would come after. Abimelech pictured a long relationship between his own people and Abraham's people in the land of his kingdom.

Abimelech had reason to be wary of Abraham's deceptiveness. Abraham's lie about not being married to Sarah had nearly cost Abimelech his life when God struck him with an illness after taking Sarah for his own wife (Genesis 20:3–11).

On the positive side, Abimelech also asked Abraham to swear to deal kindly with him and with the land, in the same way that Abimelech had already been kind to Abraham.

Please read Genesis Chapter 22  Check

## Chapter 22

1. (Genesis 22:1) What is the first thing we discover about the relationship between God and Abraham in Chapter 22? God tested Abraham's faith.

2. (Genesis 22:2) What does God tell Abraham to do with his son Isaac?  
go to the land of Moriah.

Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you.

3. (Genesis 22:3) Who all went to the mountains as God had instructed Abraham?  
Abraham, Isaac, two of his servants

4. (Genesis 22:7) What did Isaac ask his father Abraham about the burnt offering that he thought they were going to do? "We have the fire and the wood," the boy said, "but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?"

5. (Genesis 22:8) Where did Abraham tell Isaac they would get the lamb/sheep for the burnt offering from? God will provide a sheep

6. (Genesis 22:9) What did Abraham do when he got/arrived at the place which God had told him? Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it.

Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood.

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7. (Genesis 22:10-11) When Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay/kill his son for the sacrifice, who called to him? the angel of the Lord

8. (Genesis 22:12) After reading this verse, **in your own words**, what was the reason God put Abraham through this?

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9. (Genesis 22:13) How did God provide a ram for the burnt offering sacrifice in place of Isaac? a ram caught by its horns in a thicket.

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10. (Genesis 22:13-14) After Abraham took the ram and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son, what did Abraham call that place?

Yahweh-Yireh (which means "the Lord will provide")

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11. (Genesis 22:16-18) The Angel of the LORD called Abraham a second time.

This time He swore to him, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, I give you this blessing?

I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and

the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies.

And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—

all because you have obeyed me.

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## What does Genesis 22:20 mean?

Sometime after the events described earlier in this chapter, perhaps years later, Abraham received news from the home he had left behind when God sent him to the land of Canaan. The news was that his brother Nahor's wife, Milcah, had born eight children over the years. This is quite the comparison to Sarah's one child, Isaac.

The names of these children of Nahor and Milcah, as well as some of their grandchildren are listed in Genesis 22:21-23. These verses are important mostly to establish the family history of Isaac's eventual wife, Rebekah (Genesis 24:67).

12. (Genesis 22:23) Abraham brother, Nahor, married Milcah; they had eight children. Their last son was Bethuel. He fathered/begot a daughter; what was here name?

Rebekah

Please read Genesis Chapter 23  Check

## Chapter 23

1. (Genesis 23:1-2) How long did Sarah live? 127 years

What town did she die in? Kiriath-arba (now called Hebron)

What land was that in? land of Canaan

2. (Genesis 23:3-4) While Abraham was mourning his wife Sarah, he stood up and made this statement to the sons of the Heth/Hittites about where he lived?

Here I am, a stranger and a foreigner among you.

After making this statement what did he ask of the sons of Heth/Hittites?

Please sell me a piece of land so I can give my wife a proper burial.

3. (Genesis 23:6) After Abraham asked the sons of Heth/Hittites for a place to bury his wife, what did they call Abraham? an honored prince

Where did they say Abraham could bury his wife Sarah? \_\_\_\_\_

Choose the finest of our tombs and bury her there.

After that, what did the sons of Heth/Hittites say about Abraham burying his wife?

No one here will refuse to help you in this way.

4. (Genesis 23:8-9) After the sons of Heth/Hittites agreed to let Abraham bury his wife Sarah in their land, what place did Abraham specifically ask for? \_\_\_\_\_

cave at Machpelah, down at the end of his field.

Who owned that place? Ephron son of Zohar

What price was Abraham willing to pay? I will pay the full price

5. (Genesis 23:11) How did the owner of the field and cave where Abraham wanted to bury Sarah respond when Abraham said what he would give for it?

I will give you the field and the cave.

6. (Genesis 23:16) Abraham insisted on wanting to pay for the field and cave where he wanted to bury his wife; how much did he end up giving Ephron for it?

400 pieces of silver

### **What does Genesis 23:16 mean?**

Abraham's negotiation with Ephron the Hittite for the purchase of his cave and field at Machpelah has concluded. Negotiation may not be quite the right word however. Abraham immediately accepts the first price Ephron mentions, agreeing to purchase the field along with the cave he initially asked about.

For Abraham, the most important thing was to have the full legal ownership rights to this property, something he ensured by purchasing the cave and field in full view of the "people of the land" (Genesis 23:12). There could be no legitimate dispute as to who owned this property.

Why was this so important? In this era people were often buried in their homeland, entombed along with their ancestors. Abraham's decision to bury Sarah, and later to be buried himself, in Canaan, was a declaration of faith that this would become the permanent homeland of his offspring. This is somewhat unusual in that the land Abraham has just purchased is part of what God has promised to his descendants.

Please read **Genesis Chapter 24**  Check

## Chapter 24

### What does Genesis chapter 24 mean?

Genesis 24 describes in great detail how Rebekah came to be the wife of Abraham's son Isaac. The story begins with what sounds like a deathbed scene, though Abraham will apparently live another 35 years.

Abraham summons his oldest and most trusted servant and commissions the man with a specific mission: He must find for Isaac a wife from among Abraham's people back in Mesopotamia. Abraham is so urgent that he requires the servant to swear an oath binding himself to completing this task. More specifically, the servant must not allow Isaac to marry a Canaanite woman, but Isaac must not leave Canaan in order to marry a Mesopotamian woman (Genesis 24:1–4).

The servant receives a caveat: If he cannot find a woman willing to return to Canaan to marry Isaac, the servant will be released from his oath. Abraham is confident God will make this happen, even sending an angel to guarantee success (Genesis 24:5–9).

1. (Genesis 24:4) Why did Abraham ask his trusted servant to go to Abraham's country and his family/relatives/kindred?

find a wife there for my son Isaac.

2. (Genesis 24:6) What did Abraham tell his servant that he must make sure and not do with his son Isaac? Be careful never to take my son there.

3. (Genesis 24:8) What was the one way that Abraham's trusted servant could be released of his oath to bring a woman back to marry Isaac?

If she is unwilling to come back with you, then you are free from this oath

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4. (Genesis 24:12) When Abraham's servant arrived in Abraham's home land, one of the first things he did was pray. What did he pray for?

"O Lord, God of my master, Abraham," he prayed.

"Please give me success today, and show unfailing love to my master, Abraham."

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5. (Genesis 24:13-14) When Abraham's servant got into town he went and stood by the water well/spring. **In your own words**, what was he thinking about?

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6. (Genesis 24:15) As he was finishing praying/speaking, who was the young woman that came out? Rebekah

What was her father's name? Bethuel

What was her grandfather's name? Nahor

What was her grandmother's name? Milcah

Who was her grandfather's brother? Abraham

7. (Genesis 24:16) Name two things we learn about Rebekah in this verse?

1. very beautiful

2. a virgin

8. (Genesis 24:21) After the woman gave the servant a drink she then gave water to all 10 camels The servant remained silent/without saying a word/gazed at her for what reason?

wondering whether or not the Lord had given him success in his mission.

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9. (Genesis 24:22-23) After the camels had finished drinking, the servant took a gold nose ring and two bracelets for her wrist and asked what two questions?

1. "Whose daughter are you?"

2. "would your father have any room to put us up for the night?"

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10. (Genesis 24:26-27) What was the praise/prayer the man said after discovering that the LORD had led him to his master's brothers/relative/kinsmen home?

"Praise the Lord, the God of my master, Abraham," he said.

"The Lord has shown unfailing love and faithfulness to my master,

for he has led me straight to my master's relatives."

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### **The Significance of the Marriage between Isaac and Rebekah.**

Rebekah in the Bible was the wife of Isaac and mother of Jacob and Esau. We first meet Rebekah in Genesis 24:15, where she is identified as "the daughter of Bethuel, son of Milkah, who was the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor." This would have made Rebekah a great-niece to Abraham and second cousin to Isaac.

Abraham had been looking for a wife for his son Isaac, but he was unwilling for Isaac to marry a Canaanite—Abraham and his family were living in Canaan at the time. So Abraham sent his servant to his own kinsmen, to the city of Nahor, to find a wife for Isaac. The servant came to a well and prayed that God would give him success in this mission. Specifically he prayed that whichever young woman provided water for him and his camels would be God's choice to be Isaac's wife. As the servant was praying, along came a beautiful young virgin named Rebekah, who not only gave the servant a drink, but also watered his camels, providing the sign to Abraham's servant that she was the appointed bride (Genesis 24:10–28).

Everything was settled peaceably between Abraham's servant and Rebekah's father—and her brother, Laban—and the servant took Rebekah back to Isaac. Isaac and Rebekah were married (Genesis 24:67), but for many years Rebekah could not have children. Isaac prayed for his wife; the Lord answered his prayer, and Rebekah became pregnant (Genesis 25:21).

Rebekah became the mother of Jacob and Esau, the first twins mentioned in the Bible (Genesis 25:22–24). From these twins came two conflicted nations.

God gave Rebekah a prophecy during her pregnancy. She had noticed that the twins were struggling against one another in her womb and she asked the Lord why they were fighting. The Lord told her that two nations were in her womb and that those nations would be at odds with one another (Genesis 25:22–23). This prophecy came true. Jacob, whose name was later changed to Israel (Genesis 32:28), became the father of the twelve tribes of Israel. Esau became the father of the Edomites, who warred against Israel for ages and were finally wiped out (Obadiah 1:1–21).

Esau was born first and he was Isaac’s favorite son (Genesis 25:28). The younger Jacob was Rebekah’s favorite. As the firstborn, Esau was due the birthright, but he had despised it and traded it to Jacob for a bowl of stew (Genesis 29–34). When the time came for the blessing to be given, Rebekah helped Jacob deceive Isaac, and the blessing did indeed fall to the younger son instead of to the elder (cf. Genesis 27:1–40).

When Esau discovered Jacob and Rebekah’s deceit, he planned to kill Jacob. Rebekah devised a plan to help save her favorite son, but it again involved deceiving her husband Isaac. Rebekah made up an excuse to send Jacob to her brother Laban to look for a wife for himself (Genesis 27:41–46). Deceit was apparently a family trait.

Rebekah’s marriage to Isaac was the result of God’s providence, her pregnancy was an answer to prayer, and the lives of her sons fulfilled prophecy. Rebekah’s choice to lie and deceive her husband is an example of how wrongdoing in human beings does not thwart the plans of God and how God can ultimately bring about His will, through His mercy and wisdom, despite our sin (see Genesis 50:20).

11. (Genesis 24:34) Abraham’s servant has a chance to tell Laban, Rebekekan’s brother, about his master and how the LORD has blessed him. What four catagories of wealth does he mention that Abraham had?

1. flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle
2. fortune in silver and gold,
3. many male and female servants
4. camels and donkeys

12. (Genesis 24:50) Once Abraham's servant had a chance to tell Laban and Bethuel, Rebekah's brother and father, how the LORD led him to Abraham's family to find his son Isaac a wife, what did they say?

"The Lord has obviously brought you here, so there is nothing we can say.

Here is Rebekah; take her and go. Yes, let her be the wife of your master's son,  
as the Lord has directed."

13. (Genesis 24:54-56) When the servant rose/got up to leave and go back to Abraham with Rebekah, Isaac's bride to be, what did her brother and mother say?

"But we want Rebekah to stay with us at least ten days," her brother and mother said.

"Then she can go."

How did the servant respond?

"Don't delay me. The Lord has made my mission successful;

14. (Genesis 24:58) Rebekah's brother and mother said "we will call the young woman in and ask her personally". What did she say to them? she replied, "Yes, I will go."

15. (Genesis 24:60) What was the parting blessing that Rebekah's family gave her?

"Our sister, may you become the mother of many millions!

May your descendants be strong and conquer the cities of their enemies."

16. (Genesis 24:67) What does this verse say after,

*"he took Rebekah and she became his wife?"* He loved her deeply

What was a by-product of this marriage that Isaac may have not been expected?

she was a special comfort to him after the death of his mother.

