

# God's Unexpected Answer

Ka Sandra trudged home from band practice. She had decided to try out for the school band so that she would become a better saxophone player. But now she was beginning to have doubts.

*Well, Lord, I can't make up my mind about whether I should stay in the school band or whether I should just go ahead and drop out. I just started taking saxophone lessons and I'm probably not good enough to play in the school band, anyway. Besides, it seems as if I'm the only one missing some of the notes. Maybe I should just go ahead and quit and save myself from looking like a fool.*

Ka Sandra's grandpa, better known to the neighborhood folks as Saxe Mo, greeted her on the front porch steps. "Your mama asked me to be here when you got home. She's gone out to run a few errands but she'll be back fairly soon." Saxe Mo took a closer look at Ka Sandra and noticed something was troubling her. "How's my little pumpkin doing today? You look a little down."

"Just a little, Grandpa. I'm trying to decide if I should stay in the school band. It seems like all the other kids can play better than I can."

Saxe Mo took Ka Sandra's hand and led her to the attic. Saxe Mo mumbled to himself, "Now let's see . . . the last time I had it I put it . . . Oh, there it is!" From a dark corner, Saxe Mo pulled out an old saxophone case. Dust danced in the sunlight as it poured through the window. As he opened the case, the rusty hinges creaked from so many

years of nonusage. Ka Sandra's eyes widened with amazement when she saw what lay inside. It was a tarnished saxophone.

In a shrill voice, Ka Sandra practically screamed, "Grandpa! I didn't know that you played the saxophone!"

"Yes, Ka Sandra, your old grandpa used to play the saxophone and a mean one at that! That's how I got my name, Saxe Mo."

"You know, at one time I had the same feelings as you, but do you know what I did about it? I made up my mind that playing the saxophone was something I liked and wanted to do. Plus, I began to practice more, so that made me better."

"So, Pumpkin, if this is something you really like and want to do, keep at it and do your best."

"I tell you what. After dinner we can go and sit on the front porch and play. I still remember some of my old tunes. I'll teach you some of mine and you can teach me some of yours. What do you say?"

"I say all right by me, Grandpa!"

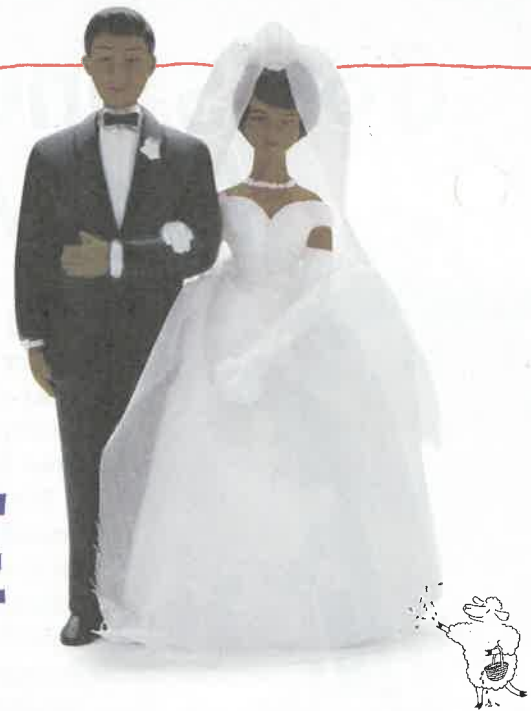
Ka Sandra thought. *Maybe I will stick with band practice. I like to play and I'll practice more to become better. Besides, it could be fun!*

Put a star by the things in the story that helped Ka Sandra make up her mind to keep playing in the school band. Do you think this guidance came from God? Why or why not?

## KEY VERSE

"Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."  
Psalm 25:5

# GODLY GUIDANCE



**A**braham was old and his wife Sarah had died. Abraham sent his servant, Eliezer, to go find a wife for his son Isaac.<sup>1</sup> Eliezer loaded his camels with gifts<sup>2</sup> and went to where Abraham's relatives lived. When he reached the city of Nahor<sup>3</sup>, he stopped to rest.

**SCRIPTURE SPOTLIGHT**  
**Genesis 24:12-14, 17-19, 21, 26-27**

Then he prayed,  
 "LORD,  
 God  
 of my

master Abraham, make me successful 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



<sup>1</sup>Marriages were arranged by parents of the couple. It wasn't unusual for a bride and groom to be complete strangers before their wedding.

draw water. 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."



<sup>2</sup>The groom's family paid a "bride price" to the bride's family to repay them for losing their daughter. The bride herself received gifts from the family of her husband.

**How did Eliezer seek God's guidance? How would he know if he had found the right woman for Isaac?**

The servant hurried to meet her and said, "Please give me a little water from your jar."

"Drink, my lord," she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink.

After she had given him a drink,

she said, "I'll draw water for your camels too, until they have had enough to drink."

Without saying a word, the man watched her closely to learn whether or not the LORD had made his journey successful.

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

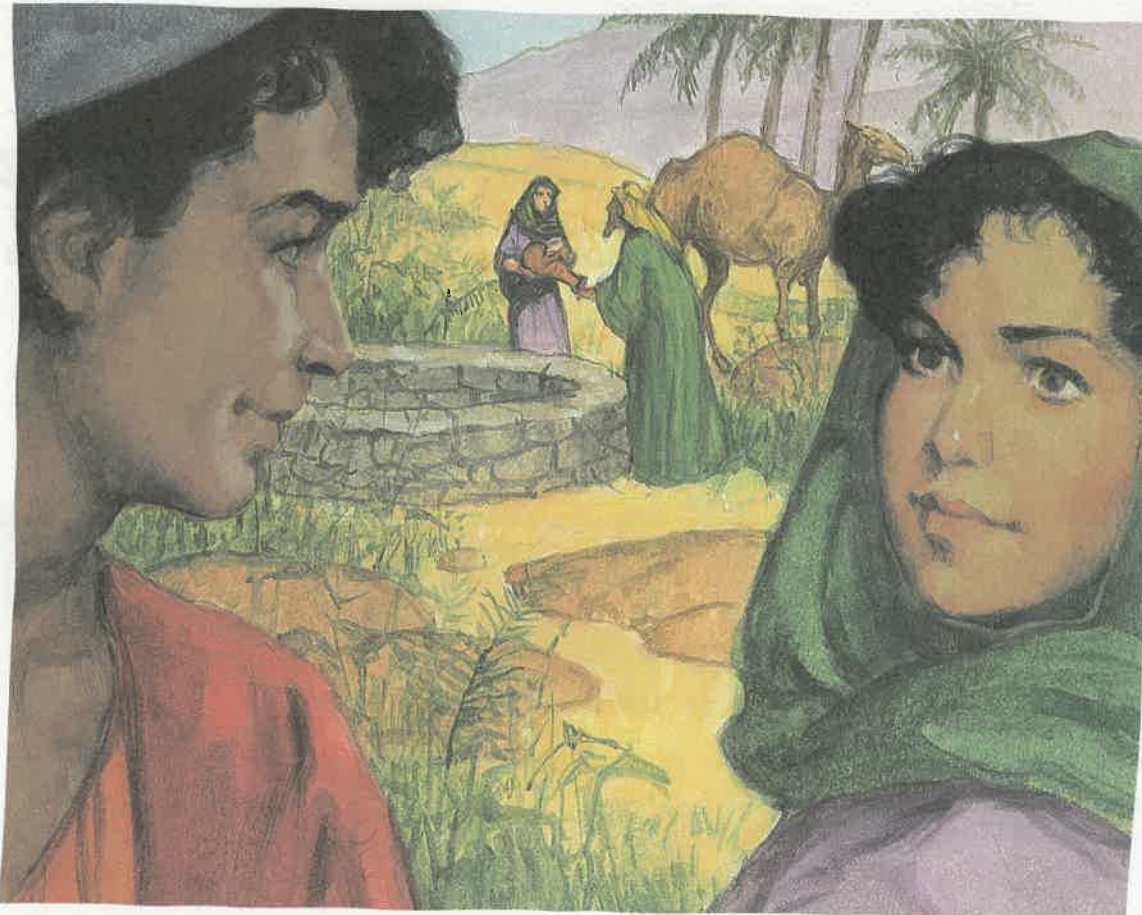


<sup>3</sup>Pronounced NAY-hor. Nahor was the name of the town and the name of Rebekah's grandfather.

the journey to the house of my master's relatives."

**How did the servant know God guided him? How did Rebekah answer the servant? How did the servant know his prayer was answered? What did the servant thank God for?**

**Read Genesis 24:61, 66-67. What was the result of Eliezer's seeking God's guidance?**



# EVERYDAY LIVES, EVERYDAY GUIDANCE

Do you ever wonder if the things you read in God's Word really help you in your everyday life? Well, wonder no more! Here are a bunch of really practical Bible verses that can help you with the things you go through and feel.



To make this handy "guidebook," carefully cut out each item following the dotted lines. Then glue one page to the back of another page so that you have 3 sheets back to back. Stack the 3 pages and fold and staple along the center line. Carry this little book in your pocket or in your Bible so you can turn to it to find God's guidance for these everyday situations.

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| <p><b>Feeling</b><br/><b>Afraid?</b></p> <p><b>Read:</b><br/><b>Hebrews 13:6</b></p> <p><i>How this helped me:</i></p> <p><b>Date:</b></p> | <p><b>Feeling</b><br/><b>Confused?</b></p> <p><b>Read:</b><br/><b>James 1:5</b></p> <p><i>How this helped me:</i></p> <p><b>Date:</b></p>                     | <p><b>Feeling</b><br/><b>IN TROUBLE?</b></p> <p><b>Read:</b><br/><b>Psalm 46:1-3</b></p> <p><i>How this helped me:</i></p> <p><b>Date:</b></p>             | <p><b>Feeling</b><br/><b>GUILTY?</b></p> <p><b>Read:</b><br/><b>Psalm 103:8-13</b></p> <p><i>How this helped me:</i></p> <p><b>Date:</b></p>     |
| <p><b>Feeling</b><br/><b>HAPPY?</b></p> <p><b>Read:</b><br/><b>Psalm 68:3-4</b></p> <p><i>How this helped me:</i></p> <p><b>Date:</b></p>  | <p><b>Feeling</b><br/><b>lonely?</b></p> <p><b>Read:</b><br/><b>Psalm 68:5-6;<br/>1 Peter 5:6-7</b></p> <p><i>How this helped me:</i></p> <p><b>Date:</b></p> | <p><b>Feeling</b><br/><b>SAD?</b></p> <p><b>Read:</b><br/><b>Psalm 116:1-8</b></p> <p><i>How this helped me:</i></p> <p><b>Date:</b></p>                   | <p><b>Feeling</b><br/><b>SICK?</b></p> <p><b>Read:</b><br/><b>Psalm 103:1-4</b></p> <p><i>How this helped me:</i></p> <p><b>Date:</b></p>        |
| <p><b>Feeling</b><br/><b>Tired?</b></p> <p><b>Read:</b><br/><b>Matthew 11:28</b></p> <p><i>How this helped me:</i></p> <p><b>Date:</b></p> | <p><b>Feeling</b><br/><b>Tempted?</b></p> <p><b>Read:</b><br/><b>1 Corinthians 10:13</b></p> <p><i>How this helped me:</i></p> <p><b>Date:</b></p>            | <p><b>Feeling</b><br/><b>like getting EVEN?</b></p> <p><b>Read:</b><br/><b>Proverbs 25:21-22</b></p> <p><i>How this helped me:</i></p> <p><b>Date:</b></p> | <p><b>Feeling</b><br/><b>WORRIED?</b></p> <p><b>Read:</b><br/><b>Philippians 4:6-7</b></p> <p><i>How this helped me:</i></p> <p><b>Date:</b></p> |