

GOD GIVES GUIDANCE

*Scripture
to
Read*

GENESIS
24:42-52

*D*uring World War II a colonel and his driver needed to get back to their own lines in the wee hours of the morning. Coming to a fork in the road, they spied a man stationed there to guide traffic. They listened to the guide's instructions and drove off. After a few miles, the driver got a feeling he should check the road ahead. He walked ahead in the somewhat foggy conditions. He soon came to a drop-off of several hundred feet where a bridge should have been.

He drove back to the guide. The colonel demanded an explanation. The guide said, "I can't understand, sir. I've been sending traffic that way all night and you're the first to complain."

Our Lord is a safe and accurate guide through the darkness and fog of life. Think of some Bible characters He guided.

Abraham commissioned Eliezer to find a suitable wife for Isaac. As he arrived at the city of Nahor, where God-fearing people lived, he prayed, "O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham. Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water: and let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she

that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master. And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder" (Genesis 24:12-15). Later Eliezer told Rebekah's family how his prayer for guidance was answered, as shown in the Bible reading.

God surely wants to guide in matters of courtship today as He did centuries ago. Sometimes a person is not sure if the person he or she is dating is the one to marry. Joseph was uncertain. "But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 1:20).

Concerning Jacob, God "led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth

over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: so the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him" (Deuteronomy 32:10-12).

The Book of Ruth tells us how God led Ruth, through her commitment and circumstances, to marry Boaz.

The Lord led David. Psalm 78:70-72 tells us, "He chose David also

his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds: from following the ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance. So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and

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guided them by the skilfulness of his hands.”

The Bible also tells us how God led Solomon, Elijah, Hezekiah, Philip, Paul, and many others. Let Him lead you too.

THINKING ABOUT IT

- When has God guided you in the past?
- What are some areas in which you are seeking His guidance?



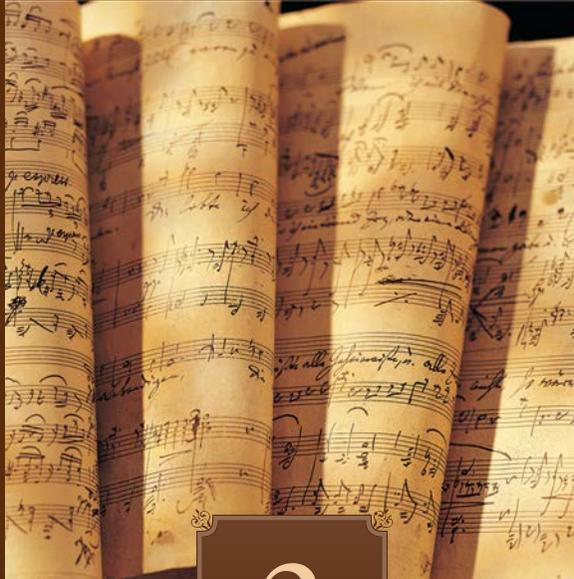
Our Time Together

DATE & PLACE _____

SPECIAL MEMORIES _____

PRAYER REQUESTS _____





2

I WILL SING UNTO THE LORD
AS LONG AS I LIVE: I WILL
SING PRAISE TO MY GOD
WHILE I HAVE MY BEING.

PSALM 104:33

FAVORITE HYMNS

*Scripture
to Read*

PSALM
47

*W*hat part of a worship service do you look forward to the most? The sermon? The singing? The prayers? The Scripture reading? The benediction?

I suspect the majority of churchgoers would indicate that singing is their first choice. This would correspond to the results of a 1990s survey conducted by George Plagenz, religion columnist with the Newspaper Enterprise Association. Many respondents indicated that hymns are the most important part of a church service.

The Bible often urges, actually commands, singing to the glory of God. In the Psalms, for instance, we are told to “sing unto God . . . sing unto him a new song . . . sing aloud unto God our strength . . . sing praises unto his name; for it is pleasant.”

What is your favorite hymn? In the survey, “Amazing Grace” topped the list, and “How Great Thou Art” came in second. The polltaker, Plagenz, who received thousands of letters about favorite hymns said, “The message is loud and clear. Churchgoers love to sing, and the hymns they love to sing most of all are the old standbys.”

Other hymns in the top ten:

3. *In the Garden*
4. *The Old Rugged Cross*
5. *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*