

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 21: A BRIDE FOR ISAAC
GENESIS 24:1-67

Abraham lived to be a very old man. The LORD blessed him and everything he did. Abraham's oldest servant was in charge of everything he owned. Abraham called that servant to him and said, "Put your hand under my leg. Now I want you to make a promise to me. Promise to me before the LORD, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not allow my son to marry a girl from Canaan. We live among these people, but don't let him marry a Canaanite girl. Go back to my country, to my own people, to find a wife for my son Isaac. Bring her here to him." The servant said to him, "Maybe this woman will not want to come back with me to this land. If that happens, should I take your son with me to your homeland?" Abraham said to him, "No, don't take my son to that place. The LORD, the God of heaven, brought me from my homeland to this place. That place was the home of my father and the home of my family, but he promised that this new land would belong to my family. May he send his angel before you so that you can choose a wife for my son. If the girl refuses to come with you, you will be free from this promise. But you must not take my son back to that place." So the servant put his hand under his master's leg and made the promise. The servant took ten of Abraham's camels and left that place. The servant carried with him many different kinds of beautiful gifts. He went to Mesopotamia, to Nahor's city. In the evening, when the women come out to get water, he went to the water well outside the city. He made the camels kneel down at the well. The servant said, "LORD, you are the God of my master Abraham. Please show your kindness to my master by helping me find a wife for his son Isaac. Here I am, standing by this well of water, and the young women from the city are coming out to get water. I will say to one of them, 'Please put your jar down so that I can drink.' Let her answer show whether she is the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. If she says, 'Drink, and I will also give water to your camels,' I will know that she is the right one. It will be proof that you have shown kindness to my master." Before the servant finished praying, a young woman named Rebekah came to the well. She was the daughter of Bethuel. (Bethuel was the son of Milcah and Nahor, Abraham's brother.) Rebekah came to the well with her water jar on her shoulder. She was very pretty. She was a virgin; no man had ever been with her. She went down to the well and filled her jar. Then the servant ran to her and said, "Please give me a

little water to drink from your jar." Rebekah quickly lowered the jar from her shoulder and gave him a drink. She said, "Drink this, sir." As soon as she finished giving him something to drink, Rebekah said, "I will also pour some water for your camels." So Rebekah quickly poured all the water from her jar into the drinking trough for the camels. Then she ran to the well to get more water, and she gave water to all the camels. The servant quietly watched her. He wanted to be sure that the LORD had given him an answer and had made his trip successful. After the camels finished drinking, he gave Rebekah a gold earring that weighed 1/4 ounce. He also gave her two gold arm bracelets that weighed 2 ounces each. The servant asked, "Who is your father? And is there a place in your father's house for me and my men to sleep?" Rebekah answered, "My father is Bethuel, the son of Milcah and Nahor." Then she said, "Yes, we have straw and other food for your camels and a place for you to sleep." The servant bowed and worshiped the LORD. He said, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of my master Abraham. The LORD has been kind and loyal to him by leading me to his own people." Then Rebekah ran and told her family about all these things. She had a brother named Laban. She told him what the man had said to her. Laban was listening to her. And when he saw the earring and the bracelets on his sister's arms, he ran out to the well. There the man was, standing by the camels at the well. Laban said, "Sir, you are welcome to come in! You don't have to stand outside here. I have prepared a room for you to sleep in and a place for your camels." So Abraham's servant went into the house. Laban unloaded his camels and gave them straw and feed. Then he gave Abraham's servant water so that he and the men with him could wash their feet. Laban then gave him food to eat, but the servant refused to eat. He said, "I will not eat until I have told you why I came." So Laban said, "Then tell us." The servant said, "I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master in everything. My master has become a great man. The Lord has given him many flocks of sheep and herds of cattle. He has much silver and gold and many servants. He has many camels and donkeys. Sarah was my master's wife. When she was very old, she gave birth to a son, and my master has given everything he owns to that son. My master forced me to make a promise to him. He said to me, 'You must not allow my son to marry a girl from Canaan. We live among these people, but I don't want him to marry one of the Canaanite girls. So you must promise to go to my father's country. Go to my family and choose a wife for my son.' I said to my master, 'Maybe the woman will not come back to this place with me.' But my

master said to me, 'I serve the LORD, and he will send his angel with you and help you. You will find a wife for my son among my people there. But if you go to my father's country, and they refuse to give you a wife for my son, you will be free from this promise.' "Today I came to this well and said, 'LORD, God of my master Abraham, please make my trip successful. I will stand by this well and wait for a young woman to come to get water. Then I will say, "Please give me water from your jar to drink." The right woman will answer in a special way. She will say, "Drink this water, and I will also get water for your camels." That way I will know that she is the one the LORD has chosen for my master's son.'

"Before I finished praying, Rebekah came out to the well to get water. She had her water jar on her shoulder as she went to get water from the well. I asked her to give me some water. She quickly lowered the jar from her shoulder and poured me some water. Then she said, 'Drink this, and I'll get some water for your camels.' So I drank the water, and she gave water to my camels. Then I asked her, 'Who is your father?' She answered, 'My father is Bethuel the son of Milcah and Nahor.' Then I gave her the ring and bracelets for her arms. I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD. I praised the LORD, the God of my master Abraham. I thanked him for leading me straight to the granddaughter of my master's brother. Now, tell me, will you be kind and loyal to my master and give him your daughter? Or will you refuse to give her to him? Tell me so that I will know what I should do." Then Laban and Bethuel answered, "We see that this is from the LORD, so there is nothing we can say to change it. Here is Rebekah. Take her and go. Let her marry your master's son. This is what the LORD wants." When Abraham's servant heard this, he bowed to the ground before the LORD. Then he gave Rebekah the gifts he brought. He gave her beautiful clothes and gold and silver jewelry. He also gave expensive gifts to her mother and brother. Then he and his men had something to eat and drink, and they spent the night there. Early the next morning they got up and the servant said, "Now we must go back to my master." Rebekah's mother and her brother said, "Let Rebekah stay with us for a short time. Let her stay with us ten days. After that she can go." But the servant said to them, "Don't make me wait. The LORD has made my trip successful. Now let me go back to my master." Rebekah's brother and mother said, "We will call Rebekah and ask her what she wants to do." They called her and asked her, "Do you want to go with this man now?" Rebekah said, "Yes, I will go." So they allowed Rebekah to go with Abraham's servant and his men. Her nurse also went with them. While Rebekah

was leaving they said to her, "Our sister, may you be the mother of millions of people, and may your descendants defeat their enemies and take their cities." Then Rebekah and her nurse got on the camels and followed the servant and his men. So the servant took Rebekah and left. Isaac had left Beer Lahai Roi and was now living in the Negev. One evening he went out to the field to think. He looked up and saw the camels coming from far away. Rebekah also looked and saw Isaac. Then she jumped down from the camel. She said to the servant, "Who is that young man walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "That is my master's son." So Rebekah covered her face with her veil. The servant told Isaac everything that had happened. Then Isaac brought the girl into his mother's tent. Rebekah became his wife that day. Isaac loved her very much. So he was comforted after his mother's death.

21. A BRIDE FOR ISAAC

GENESIS 24:1-67



"I will say to one of them, 'Please put your jar down so that I can drink.' Let her answer show whether she is the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. If she says, 'Drink, and I will also give water to your camels,' I will know that she is the right one. It will be proof that you have shown kindness to my master."

GENESIS 24:14

21. A BRIDE FOR ISAAC

GENESIS 24:1-67

MEMORY VERSE:

"And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you."
ISAIAH 62:5

Review Questions True or False

1. Abraham said to his servant who was in charge of everything he had, "Please put your hand under my leg. I want you to make a promise to me. Promise me before the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of earth that you will allow my son to marry a girl from Canaan."
2. Abraham wanted his servant to go back to his home country and to find a wife for his son Isaac.
3. The servant was outside the city by a well of water in the evening, about the time that the women go out to get water from the well.
4. The servant said, "Oh Lord, you are the God of my master Abraham. Please let me find a daughter for his son Isaac."
5. The servant said, "I will say, 'Please put your jar down so that I may drink.', and if she is the one you have chosen for Isaac, let her say, 'Drink. And let me pour some water so that your camels may drink also.'"
6. Rebekah, who was the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Micah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder... And when she finished giving him a drink, she said, 'I will not get water for your camels too'.
7. Then Rebekah ran and told everyone at her house everything that happened.
8. Isaac took Rebekah into his mother's tent, and she became his wife that very day, and he loved her very much.

Questions

1. What did Abraham make his servant promise?
2. How many young girls came to the well after the servant said his prayer to God before Rebekah showed up?
3. What sign did the servant ask the Lord for to make sure she would be the one that God chose to be Isaac's wife?
4. What gifts did the servant give to Rebekah?
5. Did Laban and Bethuel want Rebekah to marry Isaac?
6. What did Rebekah's mother and brother want to do?
7. When they asked Rebekah if she wanted to go back with the servant to marry Isaac, what did she say?
8. When they got back to the Negev where Isaac lived, what happened?
9. Did Isaac love Rebekah?

Lesson 21 Activity

Need or Wants

Tape two large squares on the floor and label one “needs” and the other “wants.” (Or you can designate one side of the room as “needs” and the other side “wants”.)

Explain to your class that you will read several scenarios and that they must run to the square or side that best represents the scene.

Tell the children:

Abraham insisted that Isaac stay in Canaan. He assured his servant that God would prosper his mission and that God's angel would go before him. If the servant could not get the woman to go with him, he was released from the promise. It was important to Abraham that Isaac not go back to his father's homeland because he knew the call that God had on his life. He was to become a great nation. The land of Canaan was the Promised Land that the descendants of Abraham would be given. If Isaac were to travel back to where his relatives lived, he might be tempted to settle there and God's plan and purpose would not be fulfilled. We need to be careful to make sure we understand what God's plan is for our lives and then move forward in that plan. We need to trust that God will meet all of our needs along the way just as Abraham had faith in God. [We can trust God for each and every need.](#)

Susie is growing very quickly; her shoes are getting tighter every day. They already hurt her feet. Soon she will not even be able to get them on her feet. She prays and asks God for a pair of shoes that will fit her (Need or Want?)

Ebenezer is very thrifty. He never wastes anything. He really likes the new Tazmanian Taffy Twister Toy. Since he is a good boy, he feels like it would be okay to ask for one for Christmas (Need or Want?).

John is hungry. His mother offers him some soup and bread and butter. He cries because he doesn't want soup but wants some French-fries instead (Need or Want?).

Terry has two remote control cars. He prays for God to give him a fishing pole (Need or Want?).

Silas has not eaten any food since breakfast and there is none in the house. He prays for God to provide some bread (Need or Want?).

Xavier has to go to the store but his bicycle has a flat tire. The store is just three blocks away, but he prays for God to help him repair his bicycle (Need or Want?).

Discuss the difference between needs and wants. Explain that it is okay to pray for both but important to know the difference.

Abraham's servant traveled to Mesopotamia and then prayed to God for success in his mission. He trusted in God to bring the right woman; he prayed specifically so that he could know it was God answering his prayer. We, too, can trust God to answer our prayers and assure us of His direction. **We can trust God for each and every need.**

Can you think of a time when the Lord answered your prayers?

Go around the class and allow a few children to tell about when and how the Lord helped them.

We can also see a picture of Jesus in this story. God the Father sent the Holy Spirit to bring His Son a bride—the church! Just like Rebekah, the church is to be pure, have a servant's heart, and be prepared to leave. Just as Isaac was praying, Jesus is interceding for us until we are with Him. Jesus is like Isaac, but even more so, in His love for us (His bride) and desire that we live with Him eternally. In His great love, he laid down His life to purchase the salvation of His bride.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer for specific needs. Ask the children to share prayer requests and pray for them right then and there. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity to do so.