



# A WIFE FOR ISAAC

GENESIS 24

## GOAL



**To help children see that the beauty of this love story is the faith and obedience that each character demonstrated.** Abraham trusted in God's mercy, and he received mercy on every count. He had already demonstrated faith by leaving his hometown and traveling to a strange land; believing God for a son in his old age; and being willing to obey God's orders to sacrifice his son, Isaac, believing for a miracle. In this story, Abraham trusted God to choose a wife for Isaac, and God continued to be merciful by leading his servant to Rebekah. Abraham's servant also acted in faith and with great courage when he set out on a 500-mile journey to find a wife for Isaac. The servant's first inclination when he arrived was to pray and ask God for guidance. At every revelation of God's glorious plan, the servant responded with thanksgiving and worship to God. Rebekah's family believed the report of God's faithfulness brought to them by Abraham's servant, and they released their precious daughter to marry Isaac. Rebekah also believed the amazing things the servant told them and insisted on leaving right away to marry a man known only to her by the servant's testimony.



**1. Abraham:** He was the great patriarch of the Jewish nation from which the Messiah, Jesus, would be born centuries later. He was a man of great faith and obedience to God. By faith he left his hometown to go to a place he knew nothing about; by faith he believed God would give him a son; by faith he offered up his only son, believing God would give him back; and by faith he trusted God with his eternal future in a heavenly kingdom—a place designed and built by God Himself.

**2. The Servant:** The servant in this story was most likely the same servant, Eliezer, that Abraham had for many years. He was a very close and trusted servant—the right hand man to Abraham. He was so well-trusted that Abraham sent him to his hometown to choose a wife for Isaac. The faithful servant swore to Abraham that he would do exactly as instructed. He sought God for guidance, and he demonstrated worship to God each time he was shown a little more of the divine plan for the patriarch's family.

**3. Rebekah:** Rebekah was God's choice as a bride for Isaac. She had been specially prepared and selected by God, and in faith she left her home in order to travel to the land of Canaan and be Isaac's wife. She became the mother of Jacob and Esau, the fathers of two great nations. Jacob was renamed "Israel," and the nation of promise moved forward toward redemption.

**4. Isaac:** He was the son of promise, miraculously born to Abraham and Sarah in their old age. He was an answer to prayer, and God would fulfill his promise to make Abraham's descendants a great nation through Isaac. It was important that he marry God's choice of bride. God prepared and chose Rebekah for Isaac—and from the moment they met, Isaac loved her.



## MEMORY VERSES

▶ **Genesis 24: 26-27:** The man bowed his head and worshiped the Lord and said, “Blessed be the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the Lord has led me in the way to the house of my master’s kinsmen.”

**1 Peter 2: 9-10:** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

---

## OVERVIEW

▶ **Read Genesis 24:** The story of Isaac and Rebekah is a love story written by God. It begins with God calling Abraham to be the father of a great nation and then with Abraham believing God’s word. Everything had to be right. He needed to go where God directed him to go, and he needed to do what God asked him to do; finding a wife for Isaac required the same considerations. He gave this most important task to his most trusted servant, and made him promise that he would find Isaac a godly wife, not like the Canaanite women in the area who worshiped idols. This required that the servant journey back to Abraham’s hometown. Abraham made him swear to a second requirement, that he would not take Isaac with him when he left. The servant set off on the long journey. When he arrived, God directed him to a well, and he prayed that God would bring him the right woman. God was very faithful.



## SUGGESTIONS

**Talk about the faith and obedience of each character in this story and how God responded with mercy and kindness.**

**1. Abraham:** The great father of faith continued to demonstrate his trust in God when he sought to find a wife for his son Isaac. He devised a plan based upon what would be pleasing to God: Isaac's wife must worship God, not idols; she must be willing to return to the land God had chosen for Abraham, and she must be willing to join the family in pursuing God's promise in the land. God blessed Abraham's obedience and heart to please Him, and that blessing extended to Abraham's servant as well. God directed the servant's efforts to find Rebekah, the perfect bride for Isaac.

**2. The Servant:** He proved his faithfulness to Abraham as a servant and confidant, and ultimately, God entrusted the servant with an honorable task. He was faithful in little and was entrusted with much, and in the end, he found great success.

**3. Rebekah:** Rebekah must have really trusted God in order for her to leave the only life she had ever known and commit herself to marrying a man she had never met. She was blessed as a wife to Isaac and as a matriarch in the line of the Messiah.

**4. Isaac:** He didn't try to marry one of the local unbelieving women, but worked diligently for his father and trusted that God would choose just the right woman at just the right time. He even submitted to his father's request that he not accompany the servant on his mission.



**PRE-LESSON  
ACTIVITY**

▶ **Matching Game | Supplies:** Index cards work best, but really anything you can write/print on.

Write a problem on one card and a biblical solution on another. The number of cards you fill will depend on the size of your group. For example, write "Telling a Lie" on one card, then on the solution card write "Colossians 3:9: Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices." When you have completed all your problem cards with their matching solutions, mix them up and place them on the floor. Divide the group into teams. Have each team select a card, then attempt to select its match; if they are successful, place the card back facedown. If they select a match, let them have another turn.

.....

**MEMORY  
VERSES  
MEANING**

▶ **Genesis 24:26-27:** Abraham's servant is marked by his faithfulness and his worship of God. After each event of the Lord's provision he stops to worship Him.

**1 Peter 2:9-10:** When you have been bought with the blood of Jesus, you belong to God, which makes Him the authority on who you are. By an act of God's grace, you are accepted and favored; you have been chosen as a treasured possession; you are a child of the King and co-heirs of Christ's suffering and His future glory; you have been set apart by God to serve Him and to worship Him; and you are a recipient of underserved mercy and salvation.

.....

**POST-LESSON  
ACTIVITY**

▶ **Rebekah's Bracelet | Supplies:** several sheets of card stock, cut into 3-4 strips lengthwise per page, aluminum foil, white glue, markers, stickers or plastic gems (optional).

Before class, cut the aluminum foil into strips the same length and twice as wide as each piece of card stock. Give each student a piece of card stock and have them spread glue on the first side. Center the strip glue-side down onto the dull side of a piece of aluminum foil. Spread the second side of card stock with glue and fold edges of foil over to cover; press down to flatten. Have students color and decorate their strips. When finished, connect the ends of each strip with tape so they can be worn as bracelets; explain that this is like the bracelet the servant gave Rebekah.

.....



TAKE  
HOME

Faith is believing God and doing what He says. Talk about how the Bible gives instructions on how to live. Present a problem, then present the answer in Scripture, and explain faith and obedience. Also, point out the blessing that comes from doing what God says. Here are a few examples:

- 1.** Lying is sometimes easier than telling the truth, but the Bible says... “Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are His delight” (Proverbs 12:22). God is delighted with us each time we choose the truth over a lie, especially when it is difficult.
- 2.** There are so many situations out of our control that can cause worry and anxiety, but the Bible says... “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7). Take your fears and problems to God and keep your mind on His powerful ability to overcome in every situation, and He will give you peace.
- 3.** Sometimes what your parents want you to do is not always what you want to do, but obedience is still required because the bible says... “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother’ (this is the first commandment with a promise), that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land” (Ephesians 2:1-3). Being obedient to your parents results in wisdom, safety, and a blessed life.
- 4.** Sharing and giving do not come naturally but the Bible says... “Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Philippians 2:3-4). Everything we own belongs to God (1 Corinthians 4:7) so we should ask ourselves each day what we can do with His things, and ask how we can bless others with the gifts He gives to us. There is always blessing in giving.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



**Q1a:** What did Abraham ask his servant to do?

**A1:** Abraham asked his servant to find Isaac a wife.

**Q1b:** Is there anything you can't find in your city?

**TN:** Maybe there isn't a movie theater, a water park, or certain store that we like. Not having these kinds of things means we have to travel to other cities or towns that do have these amenities. Abraham and his family were living in an area where the people did not follow and worship God. Abraham wanted his son, Isaac, to marry a godly woman, but to find such a woman, someone would have to journey a long way to Abraham's homeland. Somethings are worth going out of our way to get!

### SLIDE 2



**Q2a:** What was the servant's one concern?

**A2:** The servant worried that he wouldn't be able to find a woman willing to leave her home and travel far away.

**Q2b:** Have you ever done the grocery shopping for your family on your own?

**TN:** This is a big job! Meals, snacks, and drinks for the whole family are on the line. It seems like a simple enough job: take a list of basic items, find them, pay for them, and take them home. If the list includes cereal, we would head down the cereal aisle. There we find shelves and shelves filled with different kinds and brands of cereals. Which one are we supposed to get? This happens with every item on the grocery list. How can we ensure that we buy what our families need? Well, we could try to remember what kind of items our parents usually buy, or we could call them to ask them for specific information. Before taking on big jobs like this, it's a good idea to consider obstacles we may encounter. This will help us to plan and ask questions about how we might overcome these potential obstacles. Abraham's servant was given a big task: finding Isaac a wife. He considered the obstacles he might encounter, and asked Abraham how he could overcome it. Abraham reminded his servant of God's faithfulness and offered him reassurance by telling him that an angel would go with him.



### SLIDE 3

## QUESTION & ANSWER



**Q3a:** How did Abraham's servant pray he would recognize the woman who was meant to marry Isaac?

**A3:** He prayed that the woman who was to marry Isaac would offer water to him and his camels.

**Q3b:** If you were meeting someone you'd never met in person or seen a photo of, how would you find him?

**TN:** Well, we could ask every single male we encounter at the meeting location if he is our friend. An easier solution would be to wear something specific or carry something that would make each of us identifiable, like wearing a red shirt or clown shoes, or carrying a red flower or a stuffed animal. Abraham's servant was at an even greater disadvantage than just not knowing what this woman looked like, he didn't even know her name or what kind of personality she had. He was looking for a suitable wife for his master, meaning he couldn't just pick out a pretty face and hope she was a good person. Picking a good wife would mean spending a lot of time getting to know the people in this village in order to determine which of the maidens had good character. Rather than spend all of that time, the servant asked God to make the woman who was to be Isaac's wife as identifiable through an action. When Rebekah did exactly as he prayed, it was as if she were wearing a T-shirt that said "Isaac's future wife."





## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 4



**Q4a:** Once the servant knew that Rebekah was the one for Isaac, what did he give her?

**A4:** The servant adorned her with jewelry.

**Q4b:** If you could have dinner with anyone in the world, who would it be?

**TN:** More than likely, we'd pick someone famous or important. When Laban saw the number of camels Abraham's servant had, he recognized that this man was important. Laban immediately invited him to stay with him. Laban knew that helping important people could be advantageous for him.

### SLIDE 5



**Q5a:** How long did Rebekah's brother and mother want her to stay with them before leaving.

**A5:** They wanted her to stay another 10 days.

**Q5b:** If you were offered an opportunity to go to school in a foreign country for a year, but you had to leave right away, would you do it?

**TN:** That's an amazing opportunity, but quickly deciding to leave our families would be a difficult decision. Rebekah wasn't leaving for a year, she was leaving for a very long time, in fact, she probably didn't know if she would ever see her family again. Her family wanted at least another 10 days with her before she left, but when the urgency of the situation was realized, Rebekah agreed to leave and follow God's will for her life. This decision was a huge leap of faith that God would take care of her.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 6



**Q6a:** Who did Rebekah see in the distance?

**A6:** She saw Isaac.

**Q6b:** If you were dirty, sweaty, and smelled like a camel, would you be willing to meet an important person?

**TN:** Smelling like a camel is not really going to make a good first impression. Usually we'd rather take a shower, clean up a bit, and put on some clean clothing. Rebekah had been traveling through the hot, dusty desert for days on the back of a camel. She was on her way to meet her future husband. So when she saw him off in the distance, even though she was excited to meet him, she wanted to take a minute to put herself together as best as she could before meeting Isaac.

### SLIDE 7



**Q7a:** How long after they met were Isaac and Rebekah married?

**A7:** They were married the same day.

**Q7b:** Can one person's blessing end up blessing others?

**TN:** Even if this blessing belongs to one person, the blessing can affect the lives of other people. For instance, if we get a bike for our birthdays, the bike belongs to us; however, because we now have transportation, our parents don't have to drive us everywhere. We can ride our bikes to visit our friends who live close by. In the case of this story, God blessed Isaac and Rebekah with a happy marriage. This happy marriage led to Jesus' birth—something that blessed every single person on the planet. This one wonderful blessing led to miraculous grace!



**MEMORY  
VERSES**

▷ **Genesis 24:26-27:** The man bowed his head and worshiped the Lord and said, “Blessed be the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the Lord has led me in the way to the house of my master’s kinsmen.”

**1 Peter 2:9-10:** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

.....

**BIG IDEA**

▷ When we trust in God even when it’s scary to do so, we will experience blessings.

.....

**CLOSING  
PRAYER**

▷ Dear Lord Jesus, thank You that You have our best in mind. Please help us to seek You in prayer and by reading Your Word. We ask these things in Jesus’ name, Amen.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 1



God promised Abraham that He would bless him, that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars, and that through Abraham's family, all the families of the world would be blessed. Abraham believed God's promises and trusted His word. Now, it was time to find a godly wife for Abraham's son, Isaac, and seeking her meant applying the same principles of faith. He called in his most trusted servant, saying, "Swear to me that you will find my son a wife who knows God, not from the women here in Canaan who worship idols; return to my hometown and find a maiden there."

### SLIDE 2



His loyal servant had only one concern: "What if there is no woman willing to leave her hometown and travel so far away to this strange land?" Abraham confidently recounted the promises that God made to him and responded to his servant, "The God of Heaven, the One who will fulfill every promise He made, He will send an angel to go with you." The servant was encouraged by his master's words and swore to him that he would do exactly what he asked.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 3



The servant took 10 of his master's camels and set off on the long journey. When he finally arrived, he stopped at a well just outside the city. As he waited, he prayed for a sign, "Oh Lord God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. I pray that while I am standing here by this spring of water, the maiden who is to be Isaac's wife will not only serve me water at my bidding, but will also offer water to my camels." Before he finished praying, Rebekah approached the well. She was very beautiful. The servant ran to the young lady and asked, "Please, may I have a drink of water from your jar?" She quickly gave the stranger a drink. "I will fetch water for your camels as well," she said kindly. The words struck a chord in the servant's heart—could it be that this beautiful girl was the one for his master's son, Isaac? The servant studied her while she went about the difficult task of watering 10 thirsty camels. He could see she was as kind as she was beautiful.

### SLIDE 4



The servant was now confident that Rebekah was the one for Isaac, and he adorned her with jewelry. When Rebekah's brother Laban saw the grand procession of camels near the spring, he ran to greet them. Laban invited the servant to stay in his father's home and to join the family for dinner. As they sat down to eat, the servant interrupted, "I cannot eat until I have done everything my master sent me to do." And he began to explain all that had taken place.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 5



After listening to the servant's amazing story, they all agreed that it was God who led him to Rebekah. The next morning, the servant said to Rebekah's family, "Let me go now and take Rebekah back to my master!" But her uncle and mother begged, "Please don't take her now. Let her stay at least 10 days, then we will let her go." But the servant urged them that he must return home right away. The matter was settled when Rebekah agreed to leave. So, the family blessed her and sent her away to begin her new life.

### SLIDE 6



Rebekah and the servant traveled nearly 500 miles to return to the home of Abraham. As they approached the settlement, Rebekah said to the servant, "Who is the man walking in the field toward us?" The servant replied, "He is my master." She quickly jumped down from the camel and prepared herself as the servant ran ahead to tell Isaac the wonderful news about how God had chosen a special bride for him.

### SLIDE 7



Isaac and Rebekah were finally introduced, and it was truly love at first sight! They met and married the very same day and had a long, happy life together. The promise that the whole world would be blessed through this special family would be fulfilled hundreds of years later, because out of Isaac and Rebekah's family would come Jesus, the Messiah!