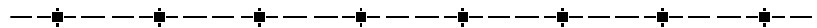


Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

Families of the Old Testament



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

A Son is Comforted

Isaac and Rebecca

Genesis 24

A Son is Comforted

Genesis 24

Memory Verse:

So put on tender mercy
and kindness as if
they were your clothes.
Colossians 3: 12 NIV

Lesson Goals:

1. Understand that Isaac was grieving.
2. Understand that Rebekah had many good qualities.
3. Understand that Abraham and his servant asked for God's help.
4. Understand that Rebekah was willing to leave her family to marry Isaac.

Last week, we learned that God told Abraham that Isaac would be his heir. Isaac was the son of Abraham and Sarah, his wife. He was the son God promised Abraham. Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old when Isaac was born.

Read the Bible

READ: Genesis 24:1-14 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin with Prayer

When Sarah died, Isaac grieved for his mother. Isaac was close to forty years old and single. Abraham asked for God's help. He sent his servant to look for a wife for Isaac from among his family members. (Genesis 24:1-4) The servant was worried that the woman might not be willing to return with him. Abraham made his servant promise not to allow Isaac to go back to Ur. Abraham said that if the woman would not return, that the servant was free of his promise. (Genesis 24:5-9)

The servant took gifts and started on his journey. He asked God for specific things that would let him know which woman was the one God had chosen for Isaac. He wanted to be sure that he had the right one.

"Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out." (Genesis 24:15 NIV) Just as he had asked God, she offered him a drink and then offered to water his camels. (Genesis 24:15-23) That was exactly what the servant had asked God. He wanted the woman who would be Isaac's wife to offer him water and to offer to water the camels. Have you ever seen a camel? They can drink up to ten gallons of water. There were ten camels. (Genesis 24:10) We don't know how much water Rebekah gave them, but it was probably hard work. By offering water to a stranger, Rebekah showed hospitality and kindness. By offering to water his camels, she showed that she was a hard worker. God wants us to be kind and hospitable like Rebekah. The Bible says, "put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes." (Colossians 3:12 NIV)

But even with all that, the servant wanted to be sure that she was the right one for Isaac. He asked her, "Whose daughter are you? And please tell me something else. Is there room in your father's house for us? Can we spend the night there?" (Genesis 24:23 NIV) Rebekah told him that she was of the family of Nahor, that meant that she was a part of Abraham's family. (Genesis 11:29) Rebekah also informed the servant that they could feed their camels and that there was room for him to spend the night. (Genesis 24:24-25) She was the answer to the servant's

Isaac and Rebekah Bible Facts

1. Abraham asked for God's help.
2. Abraham's servant asked for God's help.
3. Rebekah was an answer to prayer.
4. Rebekah was willing to leave her family.
4. Rebekah married Isaac.

prayer and to Abraham's prayer. The servant was so excited that he bowed to worship, and to thank God for being faithful in answering his prayer and Abraham's prayer. (Genesis 24:26)

Rebekah ran home to tell her family about everything that had happened. (Genesis 24:28) Have you ever had exciting news to tell anyone? Abraham's servant wanted her to be Isaac's wife. That must have been exciting and scary at the same time. Her family wanted her to stay for a few days. But the servant asked them not to delay his return. When they asked Rebekah if she was willing to go, she said, "yes." (Genesis 24:55-57) Rebekah was willing to leave her family to go and marry Isaac.

Then Rebekah and her servants were sent with Abraham's servant to meet Isaac. It is interesting that she had servants but she drew the water for herself, for Abraham's servant, and for the camels. It shows that she was also a humble, hard worker. The Bible says that she was very beautiful. (Genesis 24:16)

They had a long hard journey. As they got closer, Rebekah saw Isaac from a distance and covered her face with a veil. (Genesis 24:64) The servant told Isaac everything that happened. (Genesis 24:66)

Isaac must have been very sad when his mother died. They must have been very close. He was her only son. Isaac must have been excited about God's answer to their prayers. Isaac and Rebekah were married. The Bible says that Isaac was comforted after his mother's death. (Genesis 24:67) When we trust God, He answers our prayers. God knows our needs, and He hears our prayers. God sent His Son, Jesus, so that we could know Him personally. God wants us to tell Him about our hurts and about our needs.

Review questions.

1. Did Abraham ask for God's help? (yes)
2. Did the servant ask for God's help? (yes)
3. Who was the answer to their prayers? (Rebekah)
4. What did Rebekah have to do? (Rebekah had to leave her family)
5. What did Rebekah do? (She became Isaac's wife)

Do you know Jesus? God understands our hurts and our pains better than anyone. God sent Jesus so that we could have a personal relationship with Him. When we ask His forgiveness and invite Him to be a part of our lives, He comes to be a part of our lives forever. (Romans 10:9-10) We can walk with Him and talk with Him.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we know Him.
3. Ask God to help you trust Him with all your hurts.
4. Pray for friends and family members who may need comfort.

Application

Isaac was grieving. His mother, whom he loved dearly, had died. Abraham and his servant asked for God's help in finding a wife for Isaac. Rebekah had many good qualities. Rebekah was willing to leave her family to marry Isaac. She became the answer to their prayers. God wants us to be like Rebekah. "You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient." (Colossians 3: 12 NIV) You can ask God to help meet your needs. He hears us when we pray. He answers our prayers.

Planning for the next week:

Jacob and Esau (Brothers Compete) — Genesis 25-35

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Genesis 24:1-4 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

(Decorate an area of your room to look like a desert. Bring newsprint and color sand dunes on it. Draw a sun. Draw a well. Draw ten camels. Bring a clay pot that can be used to pretend to draw water. Bring clothes that the children can wear to look like Abraham's servant. Bring old jewelry that they can use for gifts to give Rebekah. Let the children take turns being Rebekah and being the servant. You may consider doing this with dolls.)

Isaac needed a wife. Abraham asked for God's help. He sent his servant to look for a wife for Isaac from among his family members. (Genesis 24:1-4) The servant was worried that the woman might not want to return with him. Abraham told him that God would help him. (Genesis 24:5-9)

The servant took gifts and started on his journey. He prayed and asked God for help. He wanted to be sure that he had the right woman, the one God had chosen for Isaac. "Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out." (Genesis 24:15 NIV)

Rebekah offered him a drink. She then offered to water his camels. (Genesis 24:15-23) That was exactly what the servant had asked God. He wanted the woman who would be Isaac's wife to offer him water and to offer to water the camels. Have you ever seen a camel? They can drink up to ten gallons of water. There were ten camels. (Genesis 24:10) We don't know how much water Rebekah gave them, but it was probably hard work.

By offering water to a stranger, Rebekah made him feel welcome. She showed kindness. By offering to water his camels, she showed that she was a hard worker. Rebekah became Isaac's wife.

God sent Jesus so that we can learn to be kind to others. God wants us to be kind like Rebekah. (Colossians 3:12 NIV)

Sing the "Fruit of the Spirit" song or another song about kindness.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus.
3. Ask God to help you to be kind.

Did you know? Preschoolers learn through play. Preschoolers imitate adults.

Consider this: Play a game that will allow them to be kind. Sit in a circle. Allow one child to stand in the center. Say to the children, "We can be kind." Allow the child in the center to hand out stickers or candy to one or two children. Then ask that child to choose another child to do the same. Be sure everyone has an opportunity to be kind. You may also do this by bouncing a balloon or a ball to each other.

Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity**— Use camel cutouts to write the memory verse. Ask the children to put the camels in order to learn the memory verse. Make a set for each child to take home.
- **Test your memory**— Use cards with letters of the alphabet to tell the story. For example: (A—Abraham prayed for a wife for his son; I—Isaac was sad; S—servant prayed; P— Abraham and the servant prayed; R— Rebekah was the answer to their prayers; K—kind; F— family; W— wife; etc.) Have the children color the pictures of camels which you have provided. On the back be sure to write a letter that helps to tell the story. Ask the children to retell the story.
- **Taste activity**— Bring special dishes or put the snacks in pretty bags. Talk about the fact that Rebekah was beautiful. Tell the children more important than that, she was an answer to prayer. Talk about Rebekah’s characteristics.
- **Think about it** — Write down some things on index cards that the children can do to be kind. Make enough copies for everyone to get at least one card. Ask them to take the card and think about someone to whom they can express that kindness. Let them tell you about it. Make it their homework assignment.
 1. Help clean ... (my room, my neighbor’s yard, my schoolyard, etc)
 2. Take turns...(washing dishes, folding clothes, etc.)
 3. Make a card for...(my mom, my grandma, a nursing home patient, etc.)
 4. Share candy with...(my brother, my friend, etc.)
- **Touch activity**— Bring magazines. Ask the children to cut out pictures of people who are kind, hard workers, hospitable, and beautiful. Ask the children to tell about people they think have qualities like Rebekah.

Bring dolls or make dolls out of construction paper that you can use to present a drama of the story. Ask the children to play different parts. Don’t forget to bring ten camels.

Run and play— Have the children pretend to be camels. Bring plastic bags and tie them on their back like a hump. Ask the children to get on their hands and toes. Have the children run races to see which camel is the fastest. You may also have a water relays with gallon jugs.

- **Listen**— As they take time for silence before God, encourage them to ask for God’s help so that they can be kind like Rebekah. Remind the children of the Bible verse.
- **Sing**— Sing “The Fruit of the Spirit,” or a song related to the story.

Test your memory

Use cards with letters of the alphabet to tell the story. For example:

A—Abraham prayed for a wife for his son; I—Isaac was sad;

S—servant prayed; P—Abraham and the servant prayed; R—Rebekah was the answer to their prayers; K—Rebekah was kind; F—family; W—wife; etc.

A I R S

P F K W

Memory Verse

So put on
tender mercy
and kindness
as if
they were
your clothes.
Colossians 3: 12
NIRV

Word Art

Trace the letters.

Rebekah

was

kind.

Word Puzzle

E L B T N E P T L S F R
Q L C N A T I U E C E I
D G B E P L F E A B H S
E T F A L I E A E P F H
Y I S O T T S K R A U A
W L N U J I A T I M H R
B O A A V H P P E N E E
O E R D H J O S U D D Y
B V E K M H A S O V Q A
F J O A E L B M U H A R
L R D N P R S I M I O P
H A N X Q Z U D N L T H

REBEKAH

BEAUTIFUL

HOSPITABLE

KIND

WORKER

HUMBLE

PRAYER

WIFE

ISAAC

Word Puzzle



REBEKAH

BEAUTIFUL

HOSPITABLE

KIND

WORKER

HUMBLE

PRAYER

WIFE

ISAAC

Anagram

1. nshcoe epploe-

2. oyhl-

3. dvleo-

4. ssdknnie-

5. eerbkha-

6. nvtsrae drpyea-

7. bmaaahr raeypd-

8. scajai efiw-

Anagram

1. nshcoe epploe– chosen people
2. oyhl– holy
3. dvleo– loved
4. ssdknnie– kindness
5. eerbkha– Rebekah
6. nvtsrae drpyea– servant prayed
7. bmaaahr raeypd– Abraham prayed
8. scajai efiw– Isaac's wife