

Lesson 12

A Wife for Isaac

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Genesis 24:10-27

MEMORY VERSE: Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? I Corinthians 3:16

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: For this reason, a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. Genesis 2:24

CATECHISM: The Sixth Commandment: Thou shalt not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a chaste and pure life in word and deed, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will:

- trust God to care for their future
- know they can ask God to help them have godly homes
- understand that Jesus is a descendant of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets,

LESSON OVERVIEW: Abraham had one son Isaac who was not married. Abraham did not want a wife for Isaac from the place they lived as the people there did not love and serve God. Abraham sends his servant back to his old community to find a wife for Isaac. The servant prayed and asked God for help in finding the right girl for Isaac. God answered this prayer. Rebekah agreed to leave her home and go with the servant to marry Isaac. They married and served God and God blessed them with children. Their family was not perfect but God loved them.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What did Abraham want for his son, Isaac? What did Abraham do? What did the servant ask God to do for him? How did God help the servant? What did Rebekah do? How did God watch over this family? How did they honor God? Were they a perfect family? How did God help them? Who was one of Isaac's descendants? Can you ask God to help you with your future, a family, a job?

ACTIVITY 1: True or False: 1. F 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. T 6. F 7. T 8. T 9. F 10. T

ACTIVITY 2: 1. Husband 2. And 3. Wife 4. Love 5. And 6. Honor 7. Each 8. Other.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Read the Bible passages, the student lesson, and the teacher's manual during the week leading up to the Sunday School Class.

Prayer Preparation

- Pray that each child will live in daily repentance and faith in Jesus.
- Pray that any child who does not trust in Jesus will ask Him to be his/her Savior.
- Pray for God to tenderly guide and protect each child.

Prepare Materials

- Activity Sheets
- Lessons
- Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Bible Background

Genesis 24:1-67

“An excellent wife, who can find *her*? For her worth is far above jewels” (Prov 31:10). Abraham found “an excellent wife” for his son, Isaac. This was a very serious matter and Abraham did not want Isaac to marry a woman who served false gods as did the people of Canaan. He had his servant swear an oath about where to look saying, “I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live; but you will go to my country and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son, Isaac” (Gen 24:3,4).

Moses prohibited marriage with the Canaanites because “you might make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they would prostitute themselves with their gods and sacrifice to their gods,” (Ex 34:15). This command was based on the need for

God's people to be holy and not be compromised or defiled by evil. Paul also writes that Christians must “not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness,” (2 Cor 6:14). And this warning would be especially important in marriage which is meant to a lifelong commitment. Abraham was already practicing that “separation.”

The Canaanites were an immoral and wicked people cursed by God and doomed to destruction. God would not be pleased for Isaac to marry one of them. Although Abraham's relatives in northern Mesopotamia had their idols, they were at least a moral people who knew about God and respected him. And they were descendants of Shem who was blessed of God. Abraham saw that the only place to find a wife for Isaac was among his own people.

While we do not choose our children's mates (or at least try not to say anything about their choices,) we must teach them from their early days the importance of marrying believers because the union is intended to be “until death do you part” (1 Cor 7:39; 2 Cor 6:14).

The servant's method in looking for the right woman is indeed interesting, but in that place and time it might not have been so unusual when looking for a wife. With a sense of divine direction, the servant stopped at a well in the town of Nahor, which was Abraham's brother's name. He prays and lays out a detailed plan to God on how it should play out as a sign to him (Gen 24:12-14). This was a very specific request for exactly the right mate, and there is a lesson in it for us. The best way for our children to find God's choice of a mate is to pray about it. They can even begin as children and praying through those years will help them keep their minds on the most important factor in their choice—the will of God.

Before she had even said "Amen," God answered. Rebekah came out with a jar on her shoulders. She was very beautiful. Her name means "to captivate" from a word meaning a "tie rope for animals." Applied to a female, that suggests that her beauty was such that men were "captivated" by her.

It becomes obvious that God is the real matchmaker in the marriage. When the servant related God's guidance to the family, her brother and father agreed saying that "This is from the Lord; take her and go, and let her become the word of your master's son as the Lord has directed" (vv 50-51).

Rebekah's mother and brother wanted her to stay for ten more days (24:55), but she did not want to delay her departure. They sent her with the servant and blessed her. Genesis tells us that Rebekah went with the servant and she married Isaac and he loved her greatly and she comforted him after the death of his mother, Sarah.

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

among: in the midst of, surrounded by

homeland: one's native land, where one is from

descendants: persons born to you, your children, and those born to them in the generations to come

permission: to allow, consent, say okay to

False gods: an item of worship other than the God revealed in the Bible

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive.

Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like.

SHARING: Ask the students, "What do you think makes a happy home?"

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read the verse clearly,

"Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" 1 Corinthians 3:16

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you'll repeat the verse again at the end.

Recite the Enrichment Memory Verse as well,

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh." Genesis 2:24

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Sixth Commandment. See if the students can remember something from the story in the last lesson.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Ask the students to share again what they think makes a home happy. Ask if they have more thoughts about what else might make a happy home.

Read the Lesson

Read the opening paragraph. **SAY:** God is with you now and He wants to be with you when you are grown up too. We don't know what our lives will be like tomorrow or next year. You can't know what your life will be like when you are grown up. You can know that God wants to be with you your whole life. He wants you and your home to belong to Him. You may get married in the future or you may not. God still wants you to have a happy home and you can pray for that. Whatever your future may be, God will be with you. You can trust God to take care of you.

Move on to the next paragraph. Ask for a volunteer to read it. **ASK:** Why did Abraham want to find a wife for Isaac from his homeland? (because the people around them didn't believe in the one, true God, like Abraham did. The people in the land of Canaan worshipped false gods and idols. Abraham believed it was very important for Isaac to have a wife who knew about the one true God. A wife who loved God would help him have a happy home.

ASK: What did Abraham do? Abraham called his servant to him and asked him to go back to his homeland to find a wife there for Isaac.

Read the next paragraph. **ASK:** What did his servant do? He took some camels, and

traveled back to Abraham's homeland where his family's relatives still lived. Also, Abraham's servant prayed and asked God to help him find the right person for Isaac to marry. He even asked God to give him a sign: when he asked for a drink of water at the well, the right young woman would offer to water his camels. That way he would be sure she was the woman God wanted to be Isaac's wife.

Explain that the servant talked to Rebekah's family. They gave permission for her to return with Abraham's servant and marry Isaac. The family wanted her to stay a while longer before going away, But when Rebekah's family asked her if she would leave to marry Isaac, she said, "I will go." Rebekah left her home with their blessing and went back with the servant to Abraham's family.

Read the fifth paragraph. Rebekah became Isaac's wife, and he loved her. They served the one, true God and God blessed them. They had children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Isaac and Rebecca were not perfect, and there were problems in their home. Even happy homes have problems. But God's love and forgiveness can overcome problems. Even though Isaac and Rebekah didn't have a perfect family, hundreds of years later, one of their descendants would be Jesus, the Savior of the world!

Repeat the Memory Verse

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

True or False?

Activity 1

Write T by true statements and F by false statements.

Activity 1

TRUE OR FALSE?

Which statements are true? Write T for true and F for false.

 F 1. Abraham's family did not trust God.

 T 2. Abraham did not want Isaac to marry a woman who served false gods.

 F 3. God helped Isaac find a camel.

 T 4. The servant prayed for God's help.

 T 5. The servant asked Rebekah for a drink of water.


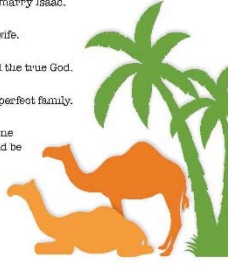
 F 6. Rebekah did not agree to marry Isaac.

 T 7. Rebekah became Isaac's wife.

 T 8. Isaac and Rebekah served the true God.

 F 9. Isaac and Rebekah had a perfect family.

 T 10. Hundreds of years later, one of their descendants would be Jesus the Servant.



Hidden Words

Activity 2

Follow the directions given to discover the eight words that make up the hidden message.

Activity 2

HIDDEN WORDS

Cross out all the numbers in the puzzle below.
Cross out the color words in lines 4, 5, and 7.
Cross out the girls' names in lines 3, 4, 5, and 6.
Cross out the boys' names in lines 1, 2, 4, and 8.
Circle the words that are left.
Write the message on the lines.

1. 987654321 HUSBANDADAM	Husband
2. DAVID1966AND246ISAAC	and
3. 345REBEKAH975WIFE3579	Wife
4. EVERREDLOVEJOHNGAIN	Love
5. 3MANY4ANDPINK8ORANGE	and
6. HONOR208RLIZABETH729	Honor
7. BLUE611GREEN2EACH646	Each
8. 12346789OTHER321DANIEL	Other

Review the Sixth Commandment and meaning.

Pray that God will help your parents to honor each other.
Pray to have a home that loves and serves God when you grow up.

CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

Additional activities for a multi-age class: