

LESSON 15

God Provides a Wife for Isaac

GENESIS 24



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD'S PLAN AND OUR PRAYERS WORK TOGETHER

LESSON SNAPSHOT

- 1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

- 2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN**
Read Genesis 24:42–51 from the Scriptures or read story 15, “God Provides a Wife for Isaac,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN**
Finish the Question

- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN**

- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN**
Why Not a Canaanite Wife?

- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN**

- 7. ACTIVITY TIME 15 MIN**
Scene at the Well
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ paper
 - ✓ colored pencils

- 8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN**

- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN**
Faith and Obedience
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ paper bags
 - ✓ pretzels (several for each child)
 - ✓ adult volunteer (outside the class)

TOTAL 80 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Abraham knew God would be faithful—When Abraham was old he wanted to send his servant on a journey to find a wife for Isaac. Abraham knew God would provide a wife for his son. There was no doubt in Abraham’s mind about that. Abraham’s faith came from remembering what God had already done. He knew God could be trusted completely.

Abraham’s servant prayed in faith—The prayer of Abraham’s servant was clear, specific, and detailed. He obviously believed God was able to hear and answer prayer. Why did he believe that?

As Abraham’s oldest and most trusted servant (Genesis 24:2), he certainly knew that Isaac’s birth had been miraculous. He knew that Abraham trusted God completely, and he must have seen Abraham worship God. Perhaps he had been serving Abraham long enough to see the many wonderful things that God had done. Maybe he had accompanied Abraham and Isaac to Mount Moriah and witnessed Abraham preparing to sacrifice his son. Just like Abraham, this servant trusted God because he had seen for himself that God is faithful.

God perfectly answered the servant’s prayer—What a wonderful demonstration of answered prayer! Rebekah fit the exact description the servant had prayed to God, and God arranged for everything. Rebekah appeared even before the servant stopped praying. This is just as Jesus said to his disciples, “Your Father knows what you need before you ask him” (Matthew 6:8b).

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Prayer

Prayer is simply talking to God. In this story, prayer takes the form of Abraham’s servant requesting God to bless his search for a wife for Isaac. Later, the servant’s prayer is one of thanksgiving (Genesis 24:26–27).

Prayer is to be offered in humility with the understanding that God is superior to us. Prayer is to be offered in faith that God can do what you ask. Psalm 139:4 tells us that the Lord knows our prayers even before we finish. That is exactly what happened in our story: even before the servant finished praying, Rebekah approached the well.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read Ephesians 1:3–5, 11.

Paul tells us that as Christians we are predestined, or chosen, according to God's plan. This is similar to how God chose Rebekah for Isaac. Abraham's servant prayed for God to show him a certain kind of woman for Isaac, and at that moment God had Rebekah walk to the well. God had already planned it!

God had an even larger plan in mind. Rebekah became Isaac's wife, and from their descendants Jesus was born. Long before Jesus was born God chose people and arranged the events of their lives in order to carry out his plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. Isaac's wife became an important part of that wonderful saving plan!

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Genesis 24:42–51 from the Scriptures or read story 15, "God Provides a Wife for Isaac," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Finish the Question

Even before Abraham's servant finished his prayer, God was answering it (see Genesis 24:15). In order to emphasize God's amazing ability to know our prayers even before we ask (Psalm 139:4), ask the children to give you the second half of the questions below. Share the "Question Start" and ask them to guess the "Question Finish"—and then answer the question.

No.	Question Start	Question Finish	Answer
1	What president can be found ...	on the quarter?	Washington
2	Who was crucified ...	next to Jesus?	Two thieves
3	What treasure can you find at ...	the end of a rainbow?	A pot of gold
4	What are the two professional football teams ...	in the state of Pennsylvania?	Steelers and Eagles
5	What did Benjamin Franklin ...	discover with a key and kite?	Electricity
6	How many pennies ...	make one dollar?	One hundred
7	Who was the first man ...	on the moon?	Neil Armstrong
8	What happened when Moses ...	put his staff on the ground?	It turned into a snake.
9	How many ears of corn ...	are there in one dozen?	Twelve
10	Who bombed ...	Pearl Harbor?	The Japanese

Then ask the class the following questions:

- What do we learn about God when we realize he was able to answer the servant's prayer even before he was finished praying?
(We learn that God is all knowing and all powerful; all knowing because he knew what the servant was going to pray even before he finished and all powerful because he was able to arrange for the circumstances to happen exactly as the servant requested in his prayer.)
- How should knowing this story encourage our faith in Jesus?
(If God could answer prayer for Abraham's servant, he can answer our prayers too.)
- What is the most important thing we can ask God for?
(The most important thing anyone can pray is that God change their heart and save them.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Why Not a Canaanite Wife?

Abraham did not want to have his son take a wife from among the idol-worshipping Canaanite tribes. See if the children can guess why.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **Why was Abraham so insistent that his servant not get a wife for his son from among the Canaanites?**
(Abraham was not interested in his son marrying someone who worshiped the Canaanite idols when God had promised to give their land to Abraham.)

- **What did Abraham do to ensure that his servant would follow his wishes in choosing a wife for his son?**
(He made his servant give his word in an oath.)

- **Why did Abraham have such confidence that his servant would be successful?**
(Abraham believed that God would send an angel to guide his servant to success [see Genesis 24:7].)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 15 MIN

Scene at the Well

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ colored pencils

Have the children draw a picture of Abraham’s servant at the well. Include ten camels loaded with costly gifts, gold, silver, and jewelry. Also include Rebekah watering the camels.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Faith and Obedience

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper bags
- ✓ pretzels (several for each child)
- ✓ adult volunteer (outside the class)

Prior to class, place five pretzels in each paper bag. (Have enough pretzels for each child to have several.) Give the bags to the adult volunteer, and instruct him to place one bag containing pretzels outside your door after the children are settled. Tell him to notice when the bag is taken into the class after which he should place all the remaining bags outside the classroom door.

After sharing today's Bible story with the class, ask them if they are hungry. When they say yes, look around the room for food. When you don't find any, have a student volunteer look out in the hallway for a snack for the class. First, pray that God would provide a snack in a paper bag and then send your volunteer out to look for it. When she brings back the bag, thank God for the snack. Then ask the child if there were any more bags in the hallway. She should answer no. (At this time your adult volunteer should put all the additional bags outside the door.)

Have one of the students pray and ask God to provide enough pretzels for the entire class. Then send another student out to the hallway to check again. Once they find the bags, have them bring them in. Celebrate God's provision together. Then let the children in on your secret: that you planned the whole thing. Just as God had planned to bring Rebekah to the well for Abraham's servant before he prayed, so you also planned for someone to deliver the pretzels before the class prayed.

Talk about how amazing it is that God controls all things that happen and makes them work according to his plan.