

Isaac Gets a Bride

(Genesis 24)

Introduction

Our lesson this morning is about God's supernatural guidance.

Did you know that God is with you every minute of every day? He never leaves you. He is always leading you and guiding you through your day, even when you don't realize it. Nothing happens by accident. Every person you meet during the day and everything that happens to you is part of His great plan for your life.

God is constantly leading us away from danger for our protection or He's leading us into a place of blessing. He either wants to provide for us or He wants to use us as a blessing for someone else.

Our job is to tune our spiritual ears so that we can clearly hear God speaking into our hearts and minds so that we don't miss out on anything God has planned for our lives.

Opening Prayer

Father, it is exciting to think that You are always with us and that nothing that happens to us during our day is an accident. We are here this morning in Sunday school, because this is part of Your wonderful plan for our lives. You want us to be here today to learn this wonderful lesson from the book of Genesis about Abraham and Isaac. Give us spiritual ears this morning to hear Your voice. Make us good students of Your word today. You are worthy to be trusted! In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV).

Lesson

Last week we learned about how Abraham had faith to obey God even when it was difficult.

To review let me ask you some questions:

1. How was Abraham's faith tested? (God asked Abraham to offer his only son as a burnt offering.)
2. Why did God test Abraham's faith? (God tested Abraham's faith to see if he would obey God even if it was hard. Would Abraham be willing to give up his son, just as God the Father gave His Son?)
3. Did Abraham kill his son? (No! God provided a ram.)
4. Why is this story in the Bible? What is this story a wonderful picture of? (God provided a substitute for us. God the Father sent His beloved Son, His only son, to die on the cross in our place. He was our Substitute. That's why we call Jesus, the Lamb of God.)
5. In what ways was Isaac like Jesus? (Isaac allowed himself to be placed on the pile of wood; Jesus allowed Himself to be nailed to the wooden cross. Isaac was willing to die on the altar; Jesus was willing to die for your sins and mine on the cross.)

When Isaac grew to be a man, Abraham decided it was time to find his son a wife. Now, he didn't want Isaac to marry a woman from the new land they had moved to, he wanted Isaac to marry a woman from his own father's family who lived in Haran.

Genesis 24:1-4

Abraham was now a very old man, and the LORD had blessed him in every way. ²One day Abraham said to his oldest servant, the man in charge of his household, "Take an oath by putting your hand under my thigh. ³Swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not allow my son to marry one of these local Canaanite women. ⁴Go instead to my homeland, to my relatives, and find a wife there for my son Isaac."

Ask: Why didn't Abraham want his son, Isaac, to marry a Canaanite woman?

He didn't want Isaac to marry a woman of another faith. He knew that if Isaac married one of the local Canaanite girls who worshiped idols, Isaac might be led away from the only true God.

When you grow up, your parents will not want you to marry someone who is not a Christian. The Bible says we should not do that. It's for our own happiness.

But the servant was worried about going to a faraway country and finding just the right woman for Isaac and then being able to convince her to come away with him.

Genesis 24:5-7

The servant asked, "But what if I can't find a young woman who is willing to travel so far from home? Should I then take Isaac there to live among your relatives in the land you came from?" ⁶"No!" Abraham responded. *"Be careful never to take my son there. ⁷For the LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and my native land, solemnly promised to give this land to my descendants. He will send his angel ahead of you, and he will see to it that you find a wife there for my son.*

Abraham wasn't worried. He trusted God. He knew God would work out the details. He remembered how God had provided the ram.

Even when we can't see how things will work out, God can! And, we can trust Him. [Teacher, review the memory verse.]

So, the servant took off with a herd of camels loaded with the best of everything Abraham owned so he could impress the bride-to-be.

Genesis 24:10

Then he loaded ten of Abraham's camels with all kinds of expensive gifts from his master, and he traveled to distant Aram-naharaim. There he went to the town where Abraham's brother Nahor had settled. [Haran]

After traveling for a long time, the servant came to a well to get water for himself and his camels.

The servant knew that the young women from the village always come out to get water every evening. He may have wondered if this would be where he finds a wife for Isaac.

Genesis 24:11-12

He made the camels kneel beside a well just outside the town. It was evening, and the women were coming out to draw water. ¹²"O LORD, God of my master, Abraham," he prayed. "Please give me success today, and show unfailing love to my master, Abraham.

Watch what happens when the servant arrives. I want you to see how God leads and guides us in everything we do.

Genesis 24:13-14 [Servant prays to God...]

See, I am standing here beside this spring, and the young women of the town are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴This is my request. I will ask one of them, 'Please give me a drink from your jug.' If she says, 'Yes, have a drink, and I will water your camels, too!'—let her be the one you have selected as Isaac's wife. This is how I will know that you have shown unfailing love to my master."

The servant prayed and asked God to point out the right girl in a very unusual way, did he?

Ask: Have you ever asked God for something specific like that? I have! I've said, "Lord, when I get to the busy mall, will you provide a parking place right by the door for me?" And, as I drive up, there's a car pulling out of the perfect parking place.

God loves to answer our prayers! So, let's see what happened.

Genesis 24:15-17

Before he had finished praying, he saw a young woman named Rebekah coming out with her water jug on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel, who was the son of Abraham's brother Nahor and his wife, Milcah. ¹⁶Rebekah was very beautiful and old enough to be married, but she was still a virgin. She went down to the spring, filled her jug, and

came up again. ¹⁷Running over to her, the servant said, "Please give me a little drink of water from your jug."

The servant is now testing to see if God had heard his request. Let's see what Rebekah does...

Genesis 24:18-19

"Yes, my lord," she answered, "have a drink." And she quickly lowered her jug from her shoulder and gave him a drink. ¹⁹When she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels, too, until they have had enough to drink."

So, it happened just as the servant asked of God! After the camels had all they could drink, the servant gave Rebekah some gifts.

Genesis 24:22

Then at last, when the camels had finished drinking, he took out a gold ring for her nose and two large gold bracelets for her wrists.

[5.5 oz gold @ \$2,861 per oz = approx. \$16K]

Ask: Why did the servant choose the sign of drawing water for camels?

The servant was looking for a woman of good character to be the wife for Isaac.

Those camels were probably very thirsty after such a long journey. Providing water for 10 thirsty camels would have been a huge job. She probably had to draw up 250 gallons of water for that many animals! Yet she offered to do this big job for a total stranger. And, she did it without complaining. And, it doesn't say that she had anyone helping her.

Her act of kindness tells us something important about her character. She could see that those animals were very thirsty. That shows us she was very compassionate.

And giving 10 thirsty camels enough water until they were completely satisfied probably took many hours of hard work. That shows us she was not selfish.

Ask: Do you ever notice when someone around you needs some help? Maybe a total stranger is struggling to get their groceries loaded in their car. Or someone here at church needs help getting in the front door.

God wants us to be observant. There are people all around us that need our help.

Rebekah's actions showed that she was kind, and a very hard worker, just the right person for his master's son.

Then the servant asked the girl if her family could put him up for the night. So, she invited him home. And, as it turns out, she was from Abraham's relatives. The Lord had led the servant right to the very house of Abraham's brothers!

God leads and guides each of us day by day! Nothing happens to us by mistake. Every person you meet during each and every day is part of God's wonderful plan for your life.

So, when the servant got to Rebekah's home, he told her family what had happened.

Genesis 24:37-40

And my master made me take an oath. He said, 'Do not allow my son to marry one of these local Canaanite women. ³⁸Go instead to my father's house, to my relatives, and find a wife there for my son.' ³⁹But I said to my master, 'What if I can't find a young woman who is willing to go back with me?' ⁴⁰He responded, 'The LORD, in whose presence I have lived, will send his angel with you and will make your mission successful. Yes, you must find a wife for my son from among my relatives, from my father's family.'

After the servant explained all that to Rebekah's family, they were all for this marriage.

Genesis 24:51

Here is Rebekah; take her and go. Yes, let her be the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has directed."

But Rebekah's parents wanted to see what Rebekah thought about this marriage to Isaac.

Genesis 24:57-58

"Well," they said, "we'll call Rebekah and ask her what she thinks." ⁵⁸So they called Rebekah. "Are you willing to go with this man?" they asked her. And she replied, "Yes, I will go."

Ask: Why was Rebekah willing to go with this man to a place she had never been?

Rebekah recognized that marrying Isaac was God's divine plan and she didn't want to waste any time following it. She immediately agreed to go with Isaac's servant.

So, the servant brought Rebekah to Isaac and she became his wife and he loved her deeply.

Ask: Has God ever prompted you to talk to someone about the Lord or to do some random act of kindness for someone?

When God leads us to do something, we should be quick to obey God without questioning Him, just like Rebekah did. His plans always lead to blessings as He works out all things for our good.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, we find such comfort in knowing that You are always with us leading us and guiding us through every day. We pray that we will see Your hand in each and everything that happens to us and every person we meet along the way each day. We don't want to miss any special plan you have for us. Help us to keep our spiritual eyes and ears open to the things of You, God. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

CRAFT CORNER

GAME CENTER

Pictionary

Write the names of people, objects, songs, and places from the story on 3x5 cards. For example: camel, pitcher, bracelet, well, wedding, water, daughter, Isaac, servant, Canaan, The servant meeting Rebekah.

Have one student at a time pick a card. The student will try and draw the word on the board, while other students guess what it is. You can divide the class into teams if you'd like, or simply award tokens to the first student to guess. Or do the drawing yourself and have the students guess.

Or, use the following questions in another game or discussion:

Review Questions:

1. Who sent the servant? (Abraham)
2. Who was the servant looking for? (A wife for Isaac)
3. What animals did the servant lead? (Camels)
4. Why didn't Abraham want Isaac to marry a woman from the new land of Canaan? (He didn't want Isaac to marry a woman of another faith. He knew that if Isaac married one of the local Canaanite girls who worshiped idols, Isaac might be led away from the only true God.)
5. How did the servant know which girl was the one for Isaac? (He prayed to God, "When I ask a girl for a drink and she says, 'Yes, certainly, and I will also water your camels,' let her be the one who

will become Isaac's wife." And, then, Rebekah came out with her pitcher on her shoulder... so it happened just as the servant asked of God!)

6. What gifts did the servant give Rebekah? (A gold nose ring and bracelet.)
7. Why did the servant choose the sign of drawing water for camels? (Providing water for 10 thirsty camels would have been a huge job. She probably had to draw up 250 gallons of water for that many animals! Yet she offered to do this big job for a total stranger. And, she did it without complaining. That showed she was not only kind, but also a very hard worker, just the right person for his master's son.)
8. What are some examples in our lesson today of how God leads and guides each of us day by day? (God led his servant to the right village, the right well and the right girl.)
9. What sign did the servant ask for? (That the girl would offer him and his camels water.)
10. What did the servant give Rebekah? (Bracelets and a nose ring)
11. Why did Abraham send the servant so far away? (He wanted Isaac's wife to worship God, like his family there did.)
12. Why did the servant ask God for a sign? (To be sure the girl was God's choice.)

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