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A WIFE FOR ISAAC

GENESIS 24

Isaac's father was named Abraham. Abraham had been promised by God that he would have a child in his old age. Although Abraham's wife, Sarah, had laughed, she and Abraham did have a son in their old age. Abraham was one hundred years old and Sarah was ninety years old when they had their son. They named their son Isaac.

Some years went by. Isaac was growing up. Then, his mother, Sarah, died. She was one hundred twenty-seven years old. It was a very sad time for Abraham. He bought some land in Canaan where there was a field, a cave and some trees. It must have been a beautiful place. This land was purchased by Abraham as a permanent burial place for his family. This is where Abraham chose to bury his wife. He buried her in the cave.

Now, Abraham was very old. He said to his servant, "Promise me you will find a wife for my son, Isaac, from the land where I grew up. Go to my relatives who are still living there and bring a wife back for him." The servant said, "What if the girl won't return with me? Should I take Isaac there to marry her?" "No!" said Abraham strongly. "The Lord, the God of Heaven, will send an angel ahead of you, who will make sure you find just the right wife for Isaac."

His servant loaded many gifts and took many animals to give to Abraham's family. He went to the area where Abraham's brother lived. He prayed God would give him a sign when he had found the right woman for Isaac. As soon as he finished praying, a beautiful girl came out to get water from a near-by well. The servant asked her for a drink of water. Then, she said to him, "I'll get water for your animals, too." That was what the servant had prayed for—that she would offer water to his animals! He was so excited! This must be the right girl! "Praise the Lord!" the servant said.

"Whose daughter are you?" the servant asked. She was the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Abraham's brother. Her name was Rebekah. God had planned everything perfectly. "Could I take her back with me to marry the son of Abraham?" the servant asked her father. Bethuel and his wife agreed.

The next day, the servant asked if he could take Rebekah back with him that very day. Rebekah said she was willing to go with him. She and her family knew it was God's plan. Rebekah was given lots of presents and so were all the members of her family. As Rebekah was leaving, she received a blessing from her family: "May you become a mother of millions. May your descendants be strong."

Rebekah, her servant girls and her childhood nurse were led to Canaan by Abraham's servant. They were all riding camels as they traveled. Isaac was out walking in a field one night when he saw camels coming his way. Rebekah saw Isaac. She stopped and got off of her camel. "Who is this man?" she asked. The servant told her who it was. Then the servant told Isaac the whole story of how he had found this girl to be his wife.

Isaac loved Rebekah very much and he married her. Because his mother had already died, it gave him special comfort to have been given a wife like Rebekah.

A WIFE FOR ISAAC - TEACHER'S GUIDE

- 1) Isaac's mother, Sarah, had died. His father, Abraham, bought a field and buried his wife.
- 2) Abraham asked his servant to go back to where Abraham had grown up to find a wife for his son, Isaac.
- 3) When the servant arrived in the land of Abraham's family, he asked God for a sign to show him when he had found the right woman for Isaac. A beautiful woman came to get water. He asked her for a drink. She offered to give water to his animals, which was what he had prayed for as a sign. The woman's name was Rebekah.
- 4) The servant returned with Rebekah to her home. Her father, named Bethuel, was the son of Abraham's brother. Bethuel and his wife agreed that Rebekah could return with the servant to marry Abraham's son, Isaac.
- 5) Rebekah and her servants returned to Canaan. Isaac loved Rebekah very much and married her.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) What sad thing had happened in Isaac's family?
- 2) What did Abraham ask his servant to do?
- 3) What was the sign God give to show the servant he had found the right woman for Isaac?
- 4) Who was Rebekah's father, Bethuel?
- 5) How did Isaac feel about Rebekah?

ANSWERS:

- 1) Isaac's mother, Sarah, had died.
- 2) Abraham asked his servant to go back to where Abraham had grown up and find a wife for Isaac.
- 3) When the servant saw a beautiful woman and asked her for water, she also offered a drink to his animals. This was the sign he had asked God to give him.
- 4) Bethuel was the son of Abraham's brother.
- 5) Isaac loved Rebekah very much.

