

Kids Church: 12th September

God provides a wife for Isaac

Genesis ch 24

This term we've been looking at the life and adventures of Abraham. God had asked Abraham - who was called Abram at the time, to leave his home and extended family and friends and move to a new land. He took his wife and servants and all his animals as well as his nephew Lot and went to the land of Canaan.

God made promises to Abraham;

He would give him many descendants; he would give this new land to them and all the nations in the world would be blessed through him.

Things didn't always go well and sometimes Abraham made mistakes. But over time Abraham learned that God would always remain faithful to his promises and he learned to trust God completely.

In today's story, Abraham has to make a very important decision. He also has to trust someone else to carry it out for him.

Discussion:

Have you ever had to make a really important decision?

as a family

as an individual?

What was it?

How did you go about it?

How did it work out?

What part did God play in it?

In Genesis 24 we learn that Isaac was now old enough to marry but Abraham didn't want him to marry a Canaanite girl. Abraham was now very old so he asked his trusted servant to go back to where his relatives lived and find a wife for his son.

This reading is quite long, but as you listen you will see that Abraham and his servant are trusting God to guide them every step of the way.

Gen24: 3-8 ICB

(Abraham said)

3 Make a promise to me before the Lord, the God of heaven and earth. Don't get a wife for my son from the Canaanite girls who live around here. **4** Instead, go back to my country, to the land of my relatives. Get a wife for my son Isaac from there."

5 The servant said to him, "What if this woman does not want to return with me to this land? Then, should I take your son with me back to your homeland?"

6 Abraham said to him, "No! Don't take my son back there. **7** The Lord is the God of heaven. He brought me from the home of my father and the land of my relatives. But the Lord promised me, 'I will give this land to your descendants.' The Lord will send his angel before you. The angel will help you get a wife for my son there.

8 But if the girl won't come back with you, you will be free from this promise. But you must not take my son back there."

Think: Why didn't Abraham want Isaac to marry a Canaanite girl (they worshipped false gods)

Why didn't Abraham want Isaac to go back with the servant?

(Maybe Abraham was worried Isaac might not return. The future for Isaac and his descendants was to be in the land God had promised them)

10 The servant took ten of Abraham's camels and left. He carried with him many different kinds of beautiful gifts. He went to Northwest Mesopotamia to Nahor's city. **11** He made the camels kneel down at the well outside the city. It was in the evening when the women come out to get water.

12 The servant said, "Lord, you are the God of my master Abraham. Allow me to find a wife for his son today. Please show this kindness to my master Abraham. **13** Here I am, standing by the spring of water. The girls from the city are coming out to get water. **14** I will say to one of the girls, 'Please put your jar down so I can drink.' Then let her say, 'Drink, and I will also give water to your camels.' If that happens, I will know she is the right one for your servant Isaac. And I will know that you have shown kindness to my master."

15 Before the servant had finished praying, Rebekah came out of the city. She was the daughter of Bethuel. (Bethuel was the son of Milcah and Nahor, Abraham's brother.) Rebekah was carrying her water jar on her shoulder.

17 The servant ran to her and said, "Please give me a little water from your jar."

18 Rebekah said, "Drink, sir." She quickly lowered the jar from her shoulder and gave him a drink. **19** After he finished drinking, Rebekah said, "I will also pour some water for your camels." **20** So she quickly poured all the water from her jar into the drinking trough for the camels. Then she kept running to the well until she had given all the camels enough to drink.

21 The servant quietly watched her. He wanted to be sure the Lord had made his trip successful.

22 After the camels had finished drinking, he gave Rebekah a gold ring weighing one-fifth of an ounce. He also gave her two gold arm bracelets weighing about four ounces each. **23** The servant asked, "Who is your father? Is there a place in his house for me and my men to spend the night?"

24 Rebekah answered, "My father is Bethuel. He is the son of Milcah and Nahor." **25** Then she said, "And, yes, we have straw for your camels. We have a place for you to spend the night."

26 The servant bowed and worshiped the Lord. **27** He said, "Blessed is the Lord, the God of my master Abraham. The Lord has been kind and truthful to him. He has led me to my master's relatives."

28 Then Rebekah ran and told her mother's family about all these things. **29** She had a brother named Laban. He ran out to Abraham's servant, who was still at the spring. **30** Laban had heard what she had said. And he had seen the ring and the bracelets on his sister's arms. So he ran out to the well. And there was the man standing by the camels at the spring. **31** Laban said, "Sir, you are welcome to come in. You don't have to stand outside. I have prepared the house for you and also a place for your camels."

(The servant spent the night with Rebekah's family and explained how he had come to approach Rebekah. They believed that it was God's will and agreed to let her go.)

59 So they allowed Rebekah and her nurse to go with Abraham's servant and his men. **60** They blessed Rebekah and said, "Our sister, may you be the mother of thousands of people.

And may your descendants capture the cities of their enemies."

61 Then Rebekah and her servant girls got on the camels and followed the servant and his men. So the servant took Rebekah and left.

62 At this time Isaac had left Beer Lahai Roi. He was living in southern Canaan. **63** One evening he went out to the field to think. As he looked up, he saw camels coming. **64** Rebekah looked and saw Isaac. Then she jumped down from the camel. **65** She asked the servant, "Who is that man walking in the field to meet us?"

The servant answered, "That is my master." So Rebekah covered her face with her veil.

66 The servant told Isaac everything that had happened. **67** Then Isaac brought Rebekah into the tent of Sarah, his mother. And she became his wife. Isaac loved her very much.

Discuss:

- Why do you think everything turned out so well?
 - (The servant prayed and asked God to help him)
- How do you think the servant had learned to follow God?
 - (He had learned from watching Abraham and all that God had done for him.)

Connect to Jesus:

"My God will meet your every need out of his riches in the glory that is found in Christ Jesus." — Philippians 4:19

How have you come to learn about Jesus?

Can you trust Jesus to help you when you are in need or have difficult decisions to make?

Do you (parents and kids) have any examples of how God has answered your prayers?

Pray:

Thank God for the times he has helped you or provided for you.

Thank him for his faithfulness.

Thank him for sending Jesus.



