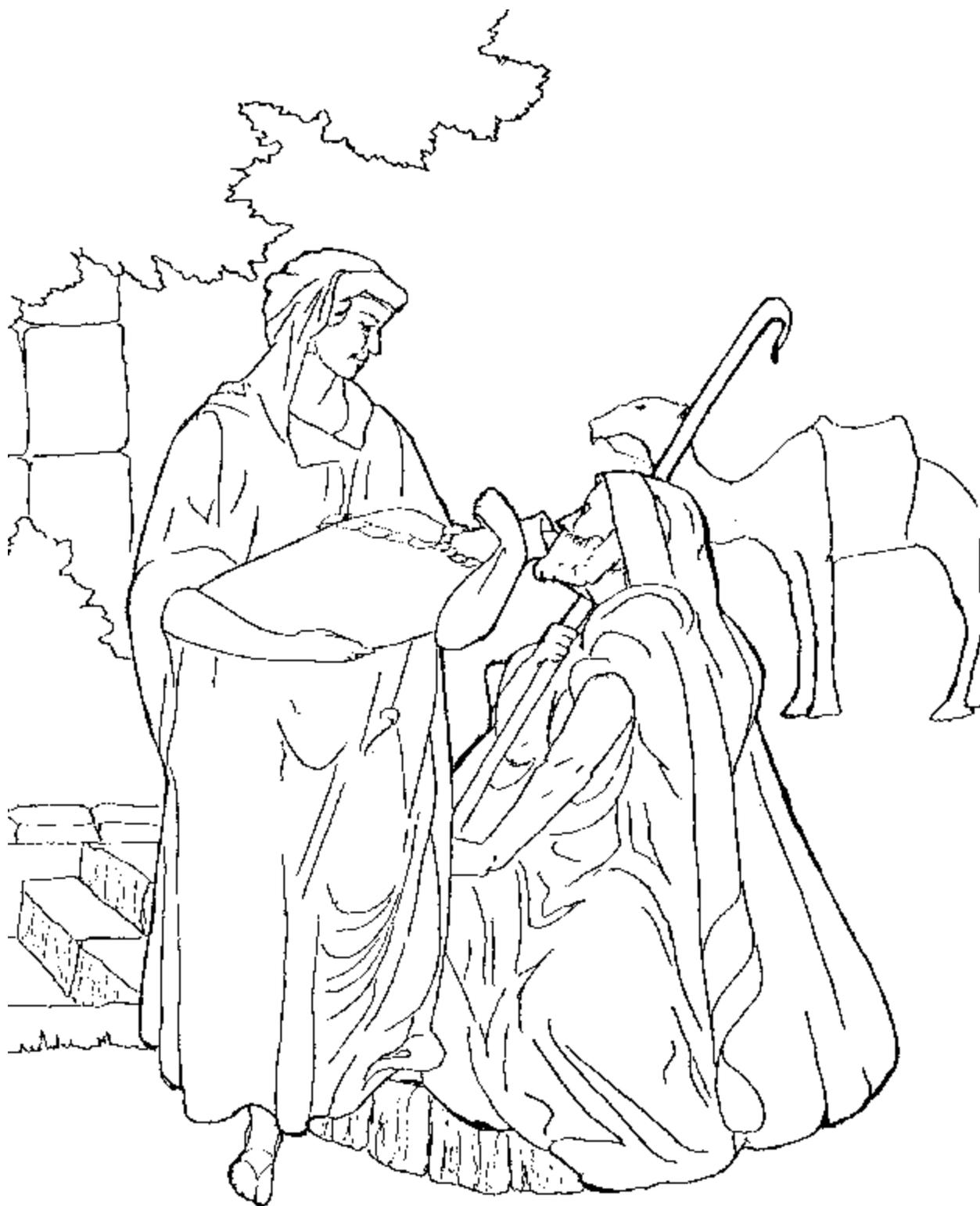


Isaac's Marriage to Rebekah

Genesis 24



The Story

The LORD leads His children in their lives to do what He wants them to do. In this story you will see how He brought two strangers together so that the Lord might keep a very important promise.

Abraham was getting very old. He wanted his son Isaac to get married. Abraham told his servant to get a wife for his son Isaac, but not from the unbelieving Canaanites, who lived in the land. Abraham told the servant to go back to the land where Abraham's family still lived, many miles away. There the servant was to choose a wife for Isaac. "The Lord will help you," Abraham said.

The servant promised to do what Abraham told him to do. He loaded ten camels with many wonderful things and traveled many miles to a city called Nahor in the land of Mesopotamia. It was in the evening when he got there. The servant made his camels lie down by the well outside of the city. He knew that the women of the city would come to the well in the evening to get water. He also knew that he needed the Lord's help to find the right woman to be Isaac's wife. So the servant prayed and asked God for a sign. He said, "Lord, please be kind to me and help me find the woman You want to be Isaac's wife. When the women come to get water I will ask them for a drink. Let the young woman who gives me a drink and also offers water for my camels, be the woman You have chosen for Isaac." Before the servant finished praying, a beautiful young woman, named Rebekah, came to the well and filled her pitcher. The servant asked her for a drink and she said, "Drink sir." After he drank his water, she said, "Now I will also get some water for your camels."

The servant watched her water his camels and wondered if this could be the woman God wanted Isaac to marry. When the camels had finished drinking water, the servant gave Rebekah a beautiful gold nose ring and two gold bracelets. He asked who she was and if there was room at her father's house for him and his camels to stay with them. Rebekah told him that she was Nahor's granddaughter and that there was room for him to stay at their home. The servant knew that Nahor was Abraham's brother.

Immediately the servant bowed his head and thanked God for leading him to Abraham's family. Rebekah ran home to tell her family what had happened at the well. Then her brother Laban came back to the well and invited the servant to come and stay at their home and to eat with them. But, before the servant would eat, he wanted to tell Laban why he had come so far to find them and what had happened at the well. After Laban and Rebekah's father heard all that the servant said, they answered, "This is the Lord's doing. Here is Rebekah. Take her and go. Let her be your master's son's wife." The servant was so happy and thankful to God for helping him find Rebekah that he bowed down and worshiped God. The he gave jewelry and clothes to Rebekah and many precious things to her family.

The very next morning the servant wanted to leave. Rebekah's

family did not want her to leave so soon. They asked if she could stay for a few more days. The servant said they must leave right away. Laban asked Rebekah if she would go and she said that she would. Rebekah's family prayed for her. Then Rebekah and the servant left.

Many days later Isaac was out walking in the fields. He looked up and saw the camels coming. He walked out to meet them. Rebekah saw Isaac coming to meet them and asked the servant who he was. The servant told her it was his master, Isaac. Rebekah took a veil and covered her face. The servant told Isaac all the things that had happened on his long trip. Then Isaac took

Rebekah as his wife and he loved her. God had promised that He would send a Savior Who would take away the sins of the whole world. God had promised Abraham that the Savior would come from his family. Because Isaac was Abraham and Sarah's son the Savior would come from Isaac's family too. It was important that Isaac marry a woman who believed in the Savior as Isaac did. The Lord led the servant to Rebekah because she was the special person He chose to marry Isaac. The Savior would come from the family.

The LORD led Isaac and Rebekah into marriage for His saving purposes.

Activity One - Use the picture on page 1 for these activities.

1. Draw a circle around each person who trusted in the Lord for help.
2. Put a gold nose ring and two gold bracelets on the person the Lord wanted Isaac marry.

Activity Two - Circle YES if the answer is true. Circle NO if the answer is false.

1. YES NO The servant trusted in Abraham to help him find Isaac's wife.
2. YES NO Rebekah wanted to marry Isaac because she knew Isaac was rich.
3. YES NO Isaac wanted to obey his father and marry the girl his father chose for him.
4. YES NO The servant thanked God for helping him find the right woman to marry Isaac.
5. YES NO Someday Jesus would come from Isaac and Rebekah's family.
6. YES NO We should trust in the Lord to help us with all of our problems.

7. YES NO The Lord will help us find someone to marry when we are old enough.
8. YES NO We should only obey our parents when we like what they tell us to do.
9. YES NO We should thank God every day for everything He does for us.
10. YES NO Jesus was born to save us all from our sins.

In order to carry forward the family tree of the Seed/Savior, the LORD joined Isaac with Rebekah.

Passages

Romans 8:31b "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Ephesians 6:1-3 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

Hymn - TLH #625 v.2

Oh, blest that house where faith ye find
And all within have set their mind
To trust their God and serve Him still
And do in all His holy will!

Prayer

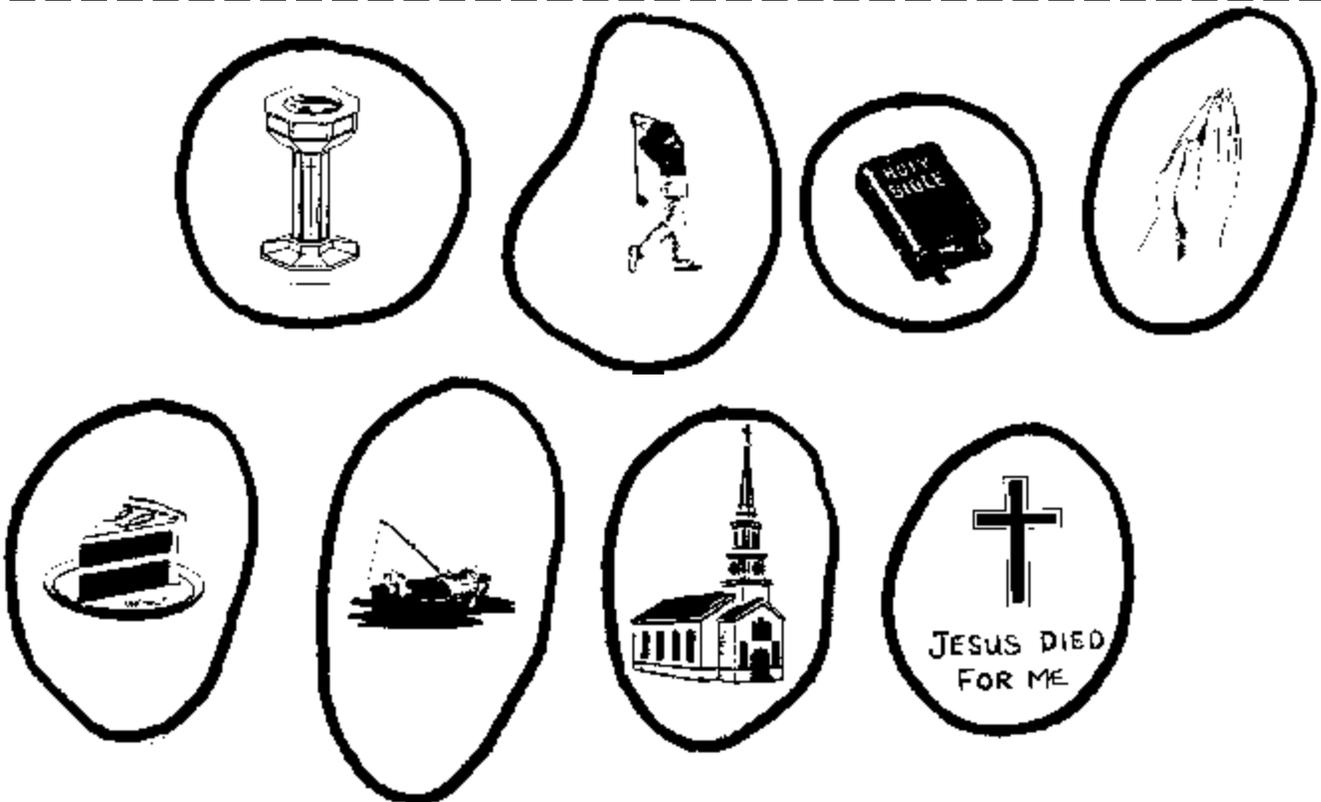
Dear Lord,

We need You to lead us. Please show us the right way to go and the right things to do all our lives. Thank you for mothers and fathers and for giving us Christian friends. We love them and we love You. Amen.

Activity Three - Cut out the rocks from the bottom of this page that show us how keeps us on the path to heaven. Glue them below starting from when you were born ending at the word "HEAVEN". You will not use all the rocks.

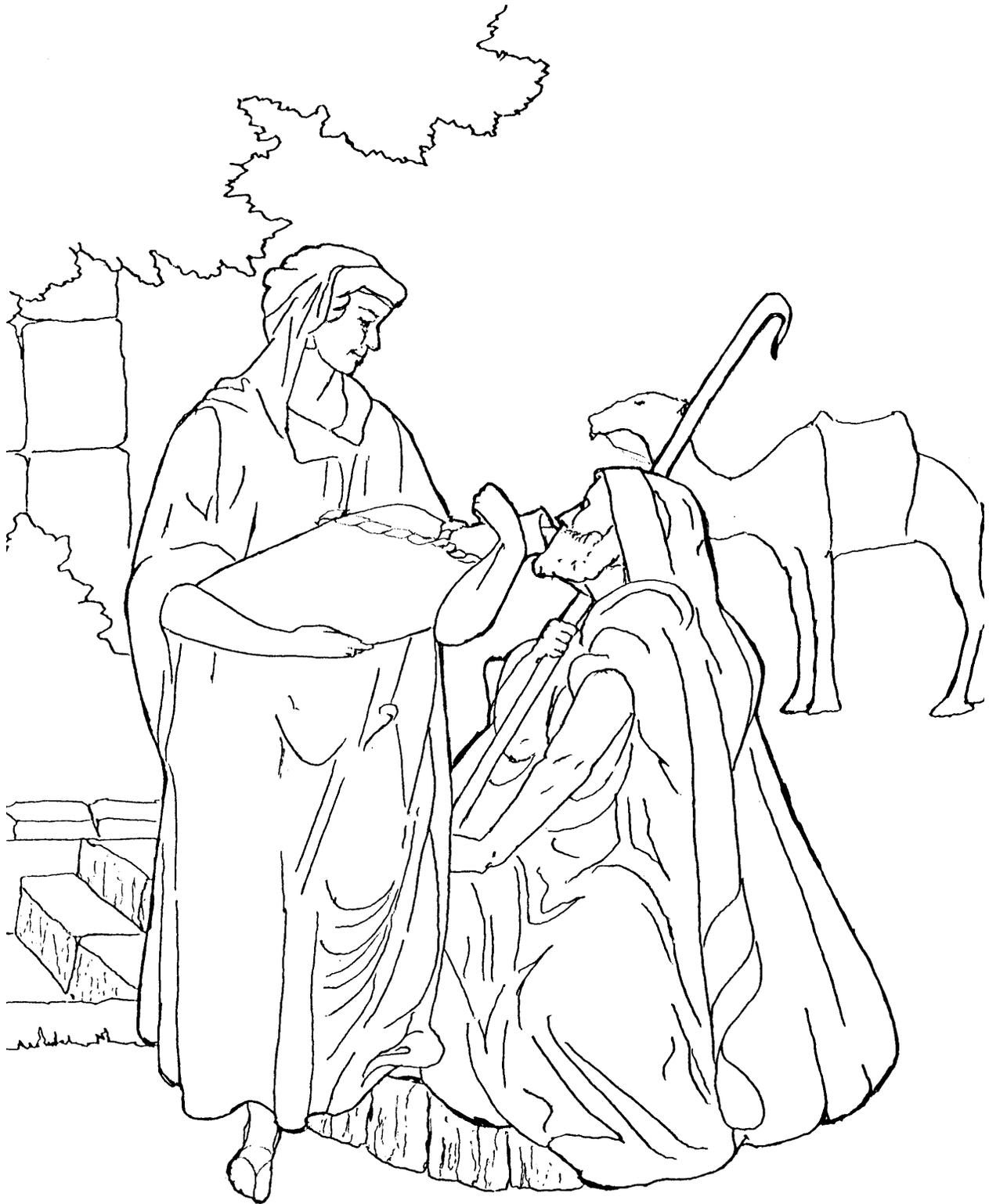
**Our pathway to heaven is long and sometimes not easy.
The LORD will lead us on our way.**

HEAVEN



Isaac's Marriage to Rebekah

Genesis 24



The Story

The LORD leads His children in their lives to do what He wants them to do. In this story you will see how He brought two strangers together so that the Lord might keep a very important promise.

Abraham was getting very old. The Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. Now Abraham knew it was time for his son Isaac to get married. He wanted a wife for Isaac who believed in the Savior. Abraham told his oldest servant that it would be his job to find a wife for Isaac, but not from the unbelieving Canaanites, who lived in the land. Abraham made the servant promise that he would find Isaac a wife from Abraham's own family. That meant that the servant would have to travel many miles to go where Abraham's family still lived. "The Lord will help you," Abraham said.

The servant promised to do what Abraham told him to do. He loaded ten camels with many wonderful things and traveled many miles to a city called Nahor in the land Mesopotamia. It was in the evening when he got there. The servant made his camels lie down by the well outside of the city. He knew that the women of the city would come to the well in the evening to get water. He also knew that he needed the Lord's help to find the right woman to be Isaac's wife. So the servant prayed and asked God for a sign. He said, "Lord, please be kind to me and help me find the woman You want to be Isaac's wife. When the women come to get water I will ask them for a drink. Let the young woman who gives me a drink and also offers water for my camels, be the woman You have chosen for Isaac." Before the servant finished praying, a

beautiful young woman, named Rebekah, came to the well and filled her pitcher. The servant asked her for a drink and she said, "Drink sir." After he drank his water, she said, "Now I will also get some water for your camels."

The servant watched her water his camels and wondered if this could be the woman God wanted Isaac to marry. When the camels had finished drinking water, the servant gave Rebekah a beautiful gold nose ring and two gold bracelets. He asked who she was and if her family had room at her father's house for him and his camels to stay with them. Rebekah told him that she was Nahor's granddaughter. (Nahor was Abraham's brother.) She also told him they had room and plenty of food. The servant immediately bowed his head and thanked God for leading him to Abraham's family. Rebekah ran home to tell her family what had happened at the well. Then her brother Laban came back to the well and invited the servant to come and stay in their home and to eat with them. But, the servant would not eat until he told Laban why he had come and what had happened at the well. When Laban and Rebekah's father heard all that the servant said, they answered, "This is the Lord's doing. Here is Rebekah. Take her and go. Let her be your master's son's wife." The servant was so happy and thankful to God for helping him find Rebekah that he

bowed down and worshiped God. Then he gave jewelry and clothes to Rebekah and many precious things to her family.

The very next morning the servant wanted to leave. Rebekah's family did not want her to leave so soon. They asked if she could stay for a few more days. The servant said they must leave right away. Laban asked Rebekah if she would go and she said that she would. Rebekah's family prayed for her. Then Rebekah and the servant left.

Many days later Isaac was out walking in the fields. He looked up and saw camels coming. He walked out to meet them. Rebekah saw Isaac coming to meet them and asked the servant who he was. The servant told her it was his master, Isaac. Rebekah took a veil and covered

her face. The servant told Isaac all the things that had happened on his long trip. Then Isaac took Rebekah as his wife and he loved her.

God had promised that He would send a Savior Who would take away the sins of the whole world. God had promised Abraham that the Savior would come from his family. Because Isaac was Abraham and Sarah's son, the Savior would come from Isaac's family too. It was important that Isaac marry a woman who believed in the Savior as Isaac did. The Lord led the servant to Rebekah because she was the special person He chose to marry Isaac. The Savior would come from their family.

The LORD led Isaac and Rebekah into marriage for His saving purposes.

Activity One - Answer the following.

1. Name the people in today's lesson who trusted in the Lord.
2. Write the words of Abraham to his servant that show Abraham trusted in God.
3. Why did the servant ask the Lord for help in finding the right woman to become Isaac's wife?
4. Why was it so important that the servant find a wife for Isaac from among Abraham's family?
5. Who was the important Person who would come from Isaac and Rebekah's family someday?

Activity Two - Think about the lessons we learned from today's story and what they mean for you today and talk about the following.

1. Whose help do we need as we live our lives on this earth?
2. What did you learn you should do when the Lord has helped you?
3. Isaac obeyed his father. Rebekah respected her parents and her older brother. What do we learn from these examples?

In order to carry forward the family tree of the Seed/Savior, the LORD joined Isaac with Rebekah.

Activity Three - Write the words that answer these questions. Use the WORD BOX.

1. What did Rebekah cover with her veil when she saw Isaac for the first time? _____
2. What gift did the servant give Rebekah to be worn in her nose? _____
3. What was the name of the man who was getting married?

4. What time of day are we told the servant arrived at the well? _____
5. What was the name of Rebekah's grandfather?

6. What did the servant want Rebekah to give him?

7. Rebekah was Laban's _____

Nahor
Ring
Sister
Face
Evening
Drink
Isaac

Now, write the first letter of each word in your answers above, and you will find that a very special blessing from the Lord is

Christian _ _ _ _ _ .

Passages

Romans 8:31b If God is for us, who can be against us?

Matthew 21:22 And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.

Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

---Underline the passage which tells us that God is more powerful than our enemies.

---Circle the passage that tells us that the Lord has given us our parents to help guide us in our lives.

---Put a box around the passage that tells us that the Lord wants to help us.

Hymn - TLH #625 v.2

Oh, blest that house where faith ye find
And all within have set their mind
To trust their God and serve Him still
And do in all His holy will!

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

We want to thank You for making us Your children through faith in Jesus. We know that even as Your children our pathway to heaven will not always be easy. We know that we need You to keep us on the right path. Please guide us in all we say and do. Please give us Christian friends to cheer us while we live, and one day bring us all safely home to You in heaven, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen

Isaac's Marriage to Rebekah

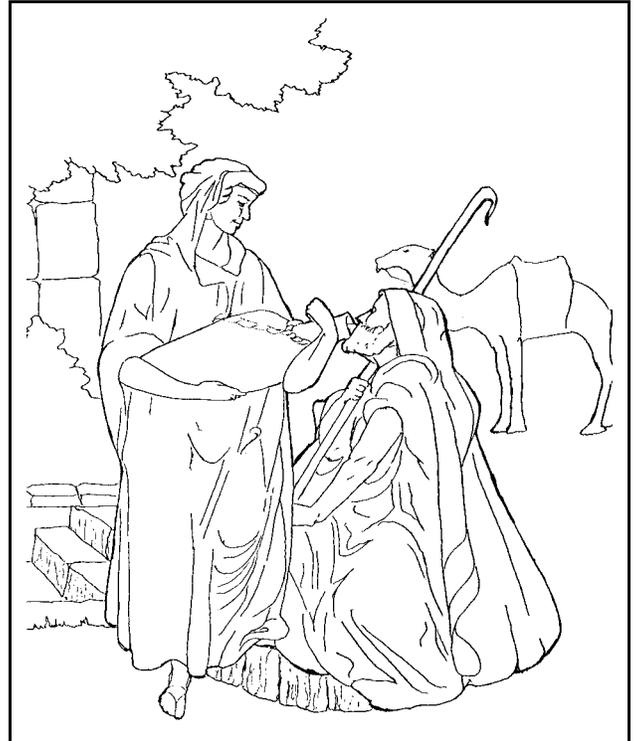
Genesis 24

Does this look to you like any kind of courtship, engagement, or betrothal?

Can you see anything in this picture that suggests these people are receiving the Lord's help?

Prayer

LORD God, Please help us as we study Your Word today. Help us learn from Abraham and his servant how we also should trust You to guide us in all our ways. Amen.



The Story - Genesis 24

Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. {2} So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh, {3} "and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; {4} "but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

{5} And the servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I take your son back to the land from which you came?"

{6} But Abraham said to him, "Beware that you do not take my son back

there. {7} "The LORD God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my family, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land,' He will send His angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. {8} "And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be released from this oath; only do not take my son back there." {9} So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter.

{10} Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, for all his master's goods were in his hand. And he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. {11} And he made his camels kneel down outside the city by a well of



water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water. {12} Then he said, "O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham. {13}

"Behold, here I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. {14} "Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink'; let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master."

{15} And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder. {16} Now the young woman was very beautiful to behold, a virgin; no man had known her. And she went down to the well, filled her pitcher, and came up. {17} And the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher."

{18} So she said, "Drink, my lord." Then she quickly let her pitcher down to her hand, and gave him a drink. {19} And when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking." {20} Then she quickly emptied her pitcher into the trough, ran back to the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels. {21} And the man, wondering at her, remained silent so as to know whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not.

{22} So it was, when the camels had finished drinking, that the man took a golden nose ring weighing half a shekel, and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels of gold, {23} and said, "Whose daughter are you? Tell me, please, is there room in your father's house for us to lodge?" {24} So she said to him, "I am the

daughter of Bethuel, Milcah's son, whom she bore to Nahor." {25} Moreover she said to him, "We have both straw and feed enough, and room to lodge."

{26} Then the man bowed down his head and worshiped the LORD. {27} And he said, "Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren." {28} So the young woman ran and told her mother's household these things.

{29} Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban, and Laban ran out to the man by the well. {30} So it came to pass, when he saw the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard the words of his sister Rebekah, saying, "Thus the man spoke to me," that he went to the man. And there he stood by the camels at the well. {31} And he said, "Come in, O blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels."

{32} Then the man came to the house. And he unloaded the camels, and provided straw and feed for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. {33} Food was set before him to eat, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told about my errand." And he said, "Speak on."

{34} So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. {35} "The LORD has blessed my master greatly, and he has become great; and He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys. {36} "And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and to him he has given all that he has. {37} "Now my master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell; {38} 'but you shall go to my father's house and to my family, and take a wife for my son.' {39}

"And I said to my master, 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me.' {40} "But he said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I walk, will send His angel with you and prosper your way; and you shall take a wife for my son from my family and from my father's house. {41} 'You will be clear from this oath when you arrive among my family; for if they will not give her to you, then you will be released from my oath.'

{42} "And this day I came to the well and said, 'O LORD God of my master Abraham, if You will now prosper the way in which I go, {43} 'behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass that when the virgin comes out to draw water, and I say to her, "Please give me a little water from your pitcher to drink," {44} 'and she says to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also,"; let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

{45} "But before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah, coming out with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down to the well and drew water. And I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' {46} "And she made haste and let her pitcher down from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will give your camels a drink also.' So I drank, and she gave the camels a drink also. {47} "Then I asked her, and said, 'Whose daughter are you?' And she said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the nose ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists. {48} "And I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, who had led me in the way of truth to take the daughter of my master's brother for his son. {49} "Now if you will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me. And if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left."

{50} Then Laban and Bethuel

answered and said, "The thing comes from the LORD; we cannot speak to you either bad or good. {51} "Here is Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be your master's son's wife, as the LORD has spoken."

{52} And it came to pass, when Abraham's servant heard their words, that he worshiped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth. {53} Then the servant brought out jewelry of silver, jewelry of gold, and clothing, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother.

{54} And he and the men who were with him ate and drank and stayed all night. Then they arose in the morning, and he said, "Send me away to my master."

{55} But her brother and her mother said, "Let the young woman stay with us a few days, at least ten; after that she may go."

{56} And he said to them, "Do not hinder me, since the LORD has prospered my way; send me away so that I may go to my master."

{57} So they said, "We will call the young woman and ask her personally." {58} Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go."

{59} So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men. {60} And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: "Our sister, may you become The mother of thousands of ten thousands; And may your descendants possess The gates of those who hate them."

{61} Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.

{62} Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi, for he dwelt in the South. {63} And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes

What the Bible Tells Us - Discuss the following.

1. Why was it so important that the servant find a wife for Isaac from Abraham's own family?
2. What was the only quality that Isaac's wife needed in order to become his wife?
3. When the time comes in your life, why will it be so important that you choose someone to marry who believes in God as you do?

Your Turn - In the list below put an X in the box next to the words that show the most important qualities you should look for in a friend.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A sense of humor | <input type="checkbox"/> Wants to obey parents and superiors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honesty | <input type="checkbox"/> Wants to obey God's Word |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Believes in Jesus as Savior from sins | <input type="checkbox"/> Likes sports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good looks | <input type="checkbox"/> Likes to go shopping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thoughtfulness | <input type="checkbox"/> Believes in a god |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intelligent | |

What are some reasons why it is important that the friends you choose believe in God as you do?

Inner Aim In order to carry forward the family tree of the Seed/Savior, the LORD joined Isaac with Rebekah.

Passages - Discuss together how these passages apply to the Inner Aim above.

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

Psalms 103:1-4 Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies.

Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD.

Hymn - TLH #625 v.1, 2, 5

Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall,
Where Jesus Christ is all in all!
Yea, if He were not dwelling there,
How dark and poor and void it were!

Oh, blest that house where faith ye find
And all within have set their mind
To trust their God and serve Him still
And do in all His holy will!

Then here will I and mine today
A solemn covenant make and say:
Though all the world forsake Thy Word,
I and my house will serve the Lord.

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

We want to thank You for making us Your children through faith in Jesus. We know that even as Your children our pathway to heaven will not always be easy. We know that we need You to keep us on the right path. Please guide us in all we say and do. Please give us Christian friends to cheer us while we live, and one day bring us all safely home to You in heaven through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Isaac's Marriage to Rebekah

Genesis 24

Can you tell how the hand of God is working in the woman in the picture?

Can you tell how the hand of God is working for the man in the picture?

Prayer

Dear LORD, As Your dear children we come to You today to ask You to guide our hearts and minds as we study Your Word. Bless us as we learn from Abraham and his servant Eliezer to rely on You as they did. Please gently lead us on all our earthly paths. Amen



The Story - Genesis 24

Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. {2} So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh, {3} "and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; {4} "but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

{5} And the servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I take your son back to the land from which you came?"

{6} But Abraham said to him, "Beware that you do not take my son back there. {7}

"The LORD God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my family, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land,' He will send His angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. {8} "And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be released from this oath; only do not take my son back there." {9} So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter.

{10} Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, for all his master's goods were in his hand. And he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. {11} And he made his camels kneel down outside the city by a well of water at



evening time, the time when women go out to draw water. {12} Then he said, "O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham. {13} "Behold, here I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. {14} "Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink'; let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master."

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{18} So she said, "Drink, my lord." Then she quickly let her pitcher down to her hand, and gave him a drink. {19} And when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking." {20} Then she quickly emptied her pitcher into the trough, ran back to the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels. {21} And the man, wondering at her, remained silent so as to know whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not.

{22} So it was, when the camels had finished drinking, that the man took a golden nose ring weighing half a shekel, and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels of gold, {23} and said, "Whose daughter are you? Tell me, please, is there room in your

father's house for us to lodge?" {24} So she said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, Milcah's son, whom she bore to Nahor." {25} Moreover she said to him, "We have both straw and feed enough, and room to lodge."

{26} Then the man bowed down his head and worshiped the LORD. {27} And he said, "Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren." {28} So the young woman ran and told her mother's household these things.

{29} Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban, and Laban ran out to the man by the well. {30} So it came to pass, when he saw the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard the words of his sister Rebekah, saying, "Thus the man spoke to me," that he went to the man. And there he stood by the camels at the well. {31} And he said, "Come in, O blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels."

{32} Then the man came to the house. And he unloaded the camels, and provided straw and feed for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. {33} Food was set before him to eat, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told about my errand." And he said, "Speak on."

{34} So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. {35} "The LORD has blessed my master greatly, and he has become great; and He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys. {36} "And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and to him he has given all that he has. {37} "Now my master made me swear, saying, 'You

shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell; {38} 'but you shall go to my father's house and to my family, and take a wife for my son.' {39} "And I said to my master, 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me.' {40} "But he said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I walk, will send His angel with you and prosper your way; and you shall take a wife for my son from my family and from my father's house. {41} 'You will be clear from this oath when you arrive among my family; for if they will not give her to you, then you will be released from my oath.'

{42} "And this day I came to the well and said, 'O LORD God of my master Abraham, if You will now prosper the way in which I go, {43} 'behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass that when the virgin comes out to draw water, and I say to her, "Please give me a little water from your pitcher to drink," {44} 'and she says to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also,"; let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

{45} "But before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah, coming out with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down to the well and drew water. And I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' {46} "And she made haste and let her pitcher down from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will give your camels a drink also.' So I drank, and she gave the camels a drink also. {47} "Then I asked her, and said, 'Whose daughter are you?' And she said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the nose ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists. {48} "And I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, who had led me in the way of truth to take the daughter of my master's brother for his son.

{49} "Now if you will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me. And if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left."

{50} Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, "The thing comes from the LORD; we cannot speak to you either bad or good. {51} "Here is Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be your master's son's wife, as the LORD has spoken."

{52} And it came to pass, when Abraham's servant heard their words, that he worshiped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth. {53} Then the servant brought out jewelry of silver, jewelry of gold, and clothing, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother.

{54} And he and the men who were with him ate and drank and stayed all night. Then they arose in the morning, and he said, "Send me away to my master."

{55} But her brother and her mother said, "Let the young woman stay with us a few days, at least ten; after that she may go."

{56} And he said to them, "Do not hinder me, since the LORD has prospered my way; send me away so that I may go to my master."

{57} So they said, "We will call the young woman and ask her personally." {58} Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go."

{59} So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men. {60} And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: "Our sister, may you become The mother of thousands of ten thousands; And may your descendants possess The gates of those who hate them."

{61} Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.

{62} Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi, for he dwelt in the South. {63} And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming. {64} Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; {65} for she had said to the servant, "Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?"

The servant said, "It is my master." So she took a veil and covered herself.

{66} And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. {67} Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Outer Aim The LORD led Isaac and Rebekah into marriage for His saving purposes.

What the Story Tells Us - Tell what each of the following verses from Genesis 24 teach.

1. Genesis 24:7
2. Genesis 24:12
3. Genesis 24:26, 27
4. Genesis 24: 50, 51
5. Genesis 24:52
6. Genesis 24:58

What the Bible Tells Us - Think of some of the difficulties we might face if the person we marry does not believe in the Triune God as we do. Listed below are some examples in the Bible where believers married or joined themselves with unbelievers.

- < Samson and his first wife
- < Samson and Delilah
- < King Solomon

- < The Children of Israel with unbelievers along their march to the Promised Land
- < Esau and his wife

1. Can you think of any others?
2. What was the result of these unions?
3. Keeping these things in mind tell why it is so important for us to choose Christian friends.

4. It is also important for us to choose a husband or wife from fellow believers.
Why was it important that Isaac's wife believe in the Savior as Isaac did?

Inner Aim In order to carry forward the family tree of the Seed/Savior, the LORD joined Isaac with Rebekah.

Passages - Discuss together how these passages apply to the lesson today and to your life.

Isaiah 65:24 "It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD.

Hymn - TLH #412 v.1-3

May we Thy precepts, Lord, fulfil
And do on earth our Father's will
As angels do above;
Still walk in Christ, the living Way,
With all Thy children and obey
The law of Christian love.

So may we join Thy name to bless,
Thy grace adore, Thy pow'r confess,
From sin and strife to flee.
One is our calling, one our name,
The end of all our hopes the same,
A crown of life with Thee

Spirit of Life, of Love, and Peace,
Unite our hearts, our joy increase,
Thy gracious help supply.
To each of us the blessing give
In Christian fellowship to live,
In joyful hope to die.

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank You for all the blessings we receive from You. Help us see Your working here among us as perfect and always for our good. Help us to love and trust only in You, and please strengthen our faith to help us as we struggle with growing up and making the right choices in our lives. We pray that when the time is right, You will help us choose the right person to marry. Amen.



STORY

7/31/06

Isaac's Marriage to Rebekah - Genesis 24

TEACHER PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as You proved Your integrity to Abraham and Isaac, so I ask You to demonstrate to me also Your dependability. I need Your support every day in every way as I present You to my students. Bless my efforts with good results, as You did with Your servant Eliezer. Amen.

VOCABULARY

Place names (Mesopotamia, Haran, Hebron) to be located on map; personal names (Isaac, Eliezer, Rebekah, Laban) to be written on the board

OUTER AIM

The LORD led Isaac and Rebekah into marriage for His saving purposes.

INNER AIM

In order to carry forward the family tree of the Seed-Savior, the LORD joined Isaac with Rebekah.

BACKGROUND

(Rupprecht Bible History References, Vol. 1, pp, 71-75)

Chapter 23 is bypassed in this series, reporting Sarah's death, burial, purchase of cemetery plot. Of what importance is this step in Isaac's life for God's plan of salvation? Since Sarah had been selected to be the mother of the chosen lineage, and Isaac was her only child, it must follow that the Promise will be carried on through Isaac--and thus he must marry and sire a child.

This chapter presents the LORD's handling of Isaac's approach to marriage.

Ch. 24: v.1

Abraham had lost his wife and was well into his "golden years"; the LORD had blessed him with a respectful and loving son, food, shelter, house, home, wealth, etc.; his faithful servant Eliezer ("God is a Helper") will become a major player in Isaac's future.

vs.2-4

This oath was more serious than a handshake; since Abraham's health would not allow him to undertake traveling to Haran, he commissioned a trusted friend to do it. The substance of the commission was double: Negative side: NOT a wife from the heathen Canaanites; Positive side: DO get a girl who would share his religion and confess the Savior with him. This was worth a lot of effort to find the special person (not a concubine or "valley girl" to entertain him) for his special son's welfare, future blessing, and for continuing the family tree of the Savior.

v. 5

Potential problems: perhaps she would figure the losses (no more family visits; friends left behind; end of her individuality and virginity) as a poor trade for what had to be more than a "blind date." She would need blind faith that there is a God who controls such things as preparing you for a spouse...and that a pre-arranged marriage could lead to love and happiness. If she declined, should Eliezer come back, get Isaac, then make a second round trip so that he and she could meet each other? (What if they found out they didn't even *like* each other?)

vs.6-8

Abraham was not going to take the chance that if Isaac left, he might be tempted to never return, and thus lose the future which the LORD had promised him IN the promised land. So he was depending on help that could not and would not get this situation messed up--by putting it into God's hands and leaving it there. And if--even with an angel overseeing the mission--the girl chosen did not become convinced that this was the LORD's will, then Eliezer need not feel that he had failed in his mission, because it was not *his* job to make it work.

vs. 9-10

With this clarified, the servant was willing to bond himself to the mission. "Thy will be done." There are no data noted for us re. the month-long 500 mile trip by camel caravan.

vs. 11-14

Women servants would come to the village well for the family's daily water supply.

The secret of success in seeking a spouse is devout prayer to the LORD God, the One who delights in helping His children. Eliezer depended on the LORD having this all programmed for Isaac; he as helper would seek a girl having an attitude of generosity, service, and hospitality.

vs. 15-16

And how did it work out? The LORD sent a cousin of Isaac, a girl unaware that her future hung in the balance, doing her regular chores of service to others. Though she was *very beautiful*, she did not display her sexual attractiveness to arouse lust; she had graciously been spared the degradation of pre-marital sex, pregnancy without marriage, etc.

vs. 17-20

Like a movie scenario, each step follows verbatim. She was good at being thoughtful, eager to be helpful. [She had to drop the bucket down 50+ ft., get it to tip, let it fill, pull it up, empty it--maybe twice per camel--which adds to 20 or 25 repeat exercises--a lot of heavy muscle work!]

vs. 21-25

It was almost too good to be true that she would meet the qualifications.

She was given an extra-ordinary reward for her generosity. Meeting the family would reveal whether the LORD had been guiding the whole process. [He was, of course!]

vs. 26-27

The LORD had done the planning and arranging, so God deserved the credit: "*who has NOT forsaken His mercy (in caring about and caring for) and His truth (dependability/integrity /faithfulness) even when I was going ahead in blind faith....*"

vs. 28-31

The young woman (still not named) ran home to tell her experience, and her brother Laban took over the privilege of being the host for a stranger "*blessed by Jehovah.*"

vs. 32-41

After they had freshened up, and with the meal ready, Eliezer needed to get to the reason for his visit; so he reviewed with them the whole background, especially as it was connected with Abraham.

vs. 42-48

Then the meeting at the well and his prayer were rehearsed.

vs. 49-54

Finally, it was their turn to react--*either good or bad*--so that Eliezer could proceed.

Father and brother recognized that it was the LORD's doing, but it was out of their hands, so they had no advice one way or the other. [Did they perhaps have some small reservations?] When they did submit to the arrangements, a dowry was given to Rebekah and family. Eliezer would be ready by first light the next day to start the return trip with Rebekah and her retinue.

vs. 55-61

If Rebekah was entirely willing, they were agreeable to part--with a ceremony and a blessing.

vs. 62-67

Isaac was ready, waiting, and praying that this big step in his life would not be a mistake, but remain in the hands of God--first, last, and always.

The caravan approached; she dismounted, evidently feeling that this was going to be THE GUY; she checked it out...and then the curtain is drawn between us and them as they became marriage partners. They got to know and to love one another and to be comforted from feeling alone.

STUDENT PRAYER

O LORD, now that I have heard how important marriage is to Your purposes for every generation, I ask You to prepare me even now for my future. Give me good Christian friends so that I may find the one You intend for me. I trust You to guide and direct, help and support me along the way. Sincerely Yours, in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRESENTATION

Though the text is lengthy, be sure to read it aloud (and get student-readers to assist) because it reads like a suspense novel; stop and explain things during the reading; teach the lessons of the story during this first-and-only class-time reading.

There are two purposes for this lesson in our selection of items from OT Bible history:

- 1) to see how the LORD reaches His hand into human events--guiding us in matters such as finding a spouse--so as to bless us.
- 2) to show how the LORD brought it about that Isaac would become one of the ancestors of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

APPLICATIONS

1. When the child of God thinks ahead to dating and getting married, s/he must consider what qualities are valued in a friend and for a life-partner. Shall it be good looks, popularity, intelligence, wholesomeness, sense of humor...? What about mutual concern for Christian values and devout approach to life?... what about respecting parents...what about being hospitable, helpful? Does the person have a Christian background and family life? Would the person be approved of by my parents as a good influence? Is it someone I can love for a whole lifetime? Is it someone who shares my love of God's Word...of worship...of prayer?
2. What is a good process (program) in preparing for marriage?
 - ▶ what's the purpose of dating? ... of being "best friends"? ... of engagement?
 - ▶ what's the value of having God involved in working on this with you?
 - ▶ what's the way you are going to get God to help you? - how to get started?

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Romans 8:31b - *If God is for us, who can be against us?*

Matt. 21:22 - *And all things, whatever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.*

Eph. 6:2-3 - *Children, obey your parents in the LORD, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise--"that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."*

Middle any of the above and...

Ps. 103:1-4 - *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies....*

Romans 8:28 - *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

Philippians 4:6 - *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanks-giving, let your requests be made known to God.*

Upper any of the above and...

Prov. 18:22 - *He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD.*

Col. 3:18-19 - *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the LORD; Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.*

I Cor. 7:38 - *A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives...*

Eph. 5:25,28 - *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.*

Isaiah 65:24 - *It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer, and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.*

HYMN CHOICES

"While Yet the Morn is Breaking" (TLH #544 1,2,5)

"O God, Thou Faithful God" (TLH #395 1,2,5)

"May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfil" (TLH #412 1-3)

"Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall" (TLH #625 1-5)