

A Wife for Isaac



Scripture Reference: [Genesis 24:1-67](#)

Suggested Theme: Marrying a person who worships God is important.

Memory Verse: “You are not the same as those who do not believe. So do not join yourselves to them. Good and bad do not belong together. Light and darkness cannot share together.” [2 Corinthians 6:14, ICB](#)

Story Overview:

Abraham wanted his son to marry a woman who worshipped the “true and living God,” so he sent a servant back to the land of his relatives to find a wife for Isaac. Rebekah and her family believed in God. She left her home and her family and travelled back to Canaan to become Isaac’s wife. Isaac married her and loved her, and they followed God together.

Background Study:

Many years had passed since [God First Called Abram](#) to leave his relatives in [Haran](#) and follow Him into the land of Canaan. Abram was now called Abraham and had grown in faith. He continued to follow God’s leading in a nomadic way of life. Abraham’s wife Sarah was now dead ([Genesis 23:1-2](#)) and buried in [Hebron](#), and the time had come to find a wife for his son, Isaac.

Abraham only ever lived in tents in Canaan and never saw this land as his “home” or the Canaanites as “his people.” God had promised Abraham that his descendants would be a great nation, and it was important that his son marry someone who followed God. This meant returning to his relatives in [Haran](#).



Finding a wife for Isaac is one of, if not the longest single narrative in the book of Genesis. This match was very important. It would set the tone for each generation after this. The future of what would become known as the Jewish people and the Nation of Israel depended on men and women who faithfully followed God, established strong families and passed their faith on to the next generations.

Abraham entrusted the task to his chief servant. This man was possibly “Eliezer of Damascus”, as mentioned earlier in [Genesis 15:1-2](#). Abraham makes him swear by oath to find a wife for Isaac from among Abraham’s relatives instead of from the nearby Canaanite people who followed other gods. The unusual sealing of this oath by placing the hand on the thigh would be seen again a few generations later when Jacob (Israel) asks Joseph to make an oath ([Genesis 47:29-30](#)).

The events in this chapter involve the faith of Abraham but also the faith of others.

Abraham’s servant

He asked for God’s guidance in leading him to Abraham’s relatives. At a well, he specifically asked God to reveal the correct girl in how she would offer to water his camels ([Genesis 24:12-21](#)). He also faithfully and accurately repeated what God had done and gave glory to God. His faithful account was repeated to both Rebekah’s family and later to Isaac ([Genesis 24:33-49](#) and [Genesis 24:66](#)) in ways that convinced them of God’s plan.

Abraham’s relatives

Bethuel (Abraham’s nephew and Rebekah’s father) and Laban (Abraham’s great-nephew and Rebekah’s brother) believed the account of events as shared by Abraham’s servant, being obedient to God’s will and entrusted Rebekah with him ([Genesis 24:50-51](#)).

Rebekah

She recognised God’s hand in this incident and was willing to leave her family, travel to a strange land and marry Isaac ([Genesis 24:55-61](#))

Isaac

He consented to his father’s choice and married Rebekah. He loved Rebekah. ([Genesis 24:62-66](#))

As you share this story with children, mention that they will probably marry someday. Talk about the importance of finding someone who has a strong faith in God.

The map above is by Sweet Publishing and can be accessed through [Free Bible Images](#). You can download this and many other illustrations for free if you agree to the generous Creative Commons terms explained on their website.

Way to Introduce the Story:

Share wedding photos with the children. This lesson emphasises the importance of two Christians marrying. You might want to invite a Christian couple with a strong marriage to bring their wedding photos to show. “We have been learning about Abraham and his son, Isaac. When Isaac was a grown man, Abraham wanted him to marry someone who believed in God. In today’s lesson, we will learn about how Abraham helped his son find a wife.”

The Story:

Abraham was a great man of God. God had promised Abraham that someday he would have grandchildren, and then they would have children, and then they would have children. God promised Abraham that he would have many, many descendants. God wanted Abraham’s descendants to love him just as much as Abraham did.

But Abraham’s son, Isaac, was not even married yet. Abraham knew it was time to find a wife for Isaac. But not just any woman would do. Abraham wanted Isaac to marry a woman who believed in God. Then Isaac and his wife could have children and teach them to love God, too.

Abraham thought about all the women who lived nearby in Canaan. They did not love God. They worshipped false gods and bowed down to them. Abraham did not want Isaac to marry a woman from Canaan. He remembered when he used to live in Haran. Many of Abraham's relatives still lived near Haran in a place called "Nahor." His relatives believed in the true and living God. This would be the perfect place to find a wife for Isaac.

So Abraham called in his most trusted servant, saying, "Promise me that you will find a wife for Isaac. Make sure that she is not a Canaanite. Go to my home country, to my relatives, and find Isaac a wife there."

The servant did as Abraham asked. He took along camels loaded with gifts to give to the father of whoever the bride would be. The servant travelled a long time before coming to Haran, where Abraham's family lived.

When the servant arrived, he decided to go to a place where the city's young women went every day. He took his camels and waited beside the spring of waters where the girls came to get water for their families.

He prayed, "O Lord God, be kind to me and to Abraham today. I'm going to stand here to watch the young women come to get water. I will say, 'May I have a drink.'

May the one who answers, 'Have a drink, and I will water your camels too,' be the one You have chosen for Isaac's wife."

The servant had not even finished his prayer when a beautiful and kind girl named Rebekah came to the well to get water.

The servant said, "Please, give me a drink."

"Of course, take some of my water."

Then Rebekah saw his thirsty camels and said, "I'll get water for your camels too."

It was hard work, but Rebekah ran back and forth to the well to get water for the thirsty camels. Finally, all the camels had plenty of water to drink.

Abraham's servant was so happy! God had answered his prayer. He knew Rebekah was the right wife for Isaac. The servant gave Rebekah two gold bracelets and a gold nose ring.

"Whose daughter are you? Is there room for my camels and me to stay overnight at your house?" he asked.

"My father is Bethuel the son of Nahor. Yes, there is room at our house. I will go and tell my family."

How thankful the servant was. Of all the people he could meet on his journey, God had led him straight to Abraham's relatives!

The servant went to Rebekah's home and explained who he was and why he was there. Rebekah's father, Bethuel, and brother, Laban, listened carefully to the servant explain how God had led him to their house and to Rebekah. Everyone was amazed at this.

And they were also happy when they heard how God had blessed their relative, Abraham. He had left them long ago, and they were so happy that he still loved God as they did.

Then the servant asked an important question, "Will you let Rebekah travel with me back to Canaan to marry Isaac?"

Bethuel agreed that this was what God would want, so they said "yes." Abraham's servant wanted to leave right away, but Rebekah's family did not want her to go yet. They finally said, "We will let Rebekah decide."

Rebekah thought about how God had led the servant to her family and to her. She wanted to marry someone who obeyed God like her family did. Rebekah said, "Yes, I will go."

Abraham's servant was so happy! He gave Rebekah and her family even richer gifts and prepared to go. Rebekah and the servant had to travel a long way before their journey was complete. She and Isaac were very happy when they saw each other. They got married, and Isaac loved Rebekah very much.

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Ways to Tell the Story:

This story can be told using various methods. Always remain true to the facts found in the Bible but help children connect to its meaning by using drama, visual aids, voice inflection or other group participation.

Be selective. Each teacher is unique, so only use the illustrations that best relate to how YOU tell the story in THIS lesson. Too many illustrations can be confusing, so eliminate any that cover other stories or details you do not wish to emphasise in this lesson.

[Click here for visual aids and more storytelling methods.](#)

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Review and Reflection Questions:

Review questions help children remember and know the facts of a story. Reflection questions encourage them to internalise the meaning and implications for their lives. Asking at least one of each type of question can help strengthen a child's spiritual development and help them connect to God. [Click here to learn more about review and reflection questions.](#)

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Review:

- Why didn't Abraham want Isaac to marry a Canaanite woman? (Because Canaanites did not believe in the true and living God)
- Where did Abraham send his servant to find a wife for Isaac? (Back to Haran, where his relatives were living.)
- How did Abraham's servant know which woman was the right wife for Isaac? (He prayed that the woman who gave him water and offered to water his camels also would be the right woman)
- What was Isaac's wife's name? (Rebekah)
- Why is it important to marry someone who loves God?
- What do you think Abraham's servant learned from his journey to find Isaac a wife?
- What can we learn about our prayers from this story? (God hears our prayers, God answers our prayers, etc.)

Reflection:

- How long a journey do you think it was from Isaac's home to Rebekah's home? What would it be like to travel that far on a camel?
- What do you think Rebekah was thinking about or feeling on her way to meet Isaac?
- Rebekah's parents had strong faith to let her go with Abraham's servant to a land far away to be married. Does your family have faith in God like Rebekah's family?
- Do you have any stories of God answering your prayers or someone else's prayers?

- What question do you have for God about this story?
- What is something you want to pray about?

Prayer:

It is important to guide children in learning how to pray. In prayer, children can connect with God and learn that He hears and answers them. God can become a life-long friend who is with them every moment of their lives. Try using a variety of prayer methods from time to time so that the children can learn to connect with God in different ways. Note that you can pray at any time throughout your lesson. [A variety of prayer methods are found here.](#)

Song Suggestions:

- [Hello Hello Song](#)
- [Goodbye World Song](#)
- [Love is Something If You Give It Away Song](#)
- [Three Wandering Jews Song](#)
- Refer to the [Song Page](#) on this website for more song options.

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Activities and Crafts:

- [How to choose the best learning activities for my teaching situation.](#)
- [Visit the activities and songs pages for additional activities and crafts.](#)

Activities:

- Decorate a wedding feast and celebrate Isaac and Rebekah's marriage. Guests can make wedding speeches recounting how Isaac and Rebekah met.
- Find [Haran](#) on a Bible map.
- Show pictures from your wedding or someone you know. Talk about the importance of marrying a Christian.
- Ask a Christian couple from your church to come and talk to the children about how they help each other follow God.
- Have the children list attributes to look for in a Christian husband or wife.
- Create a slideshow from a collection of bridal photos of women the children know. Show the bridal photo and let the children guess who the bride is. Then, show a picture of the same woman today. The children (and other teachers) will really enjoy this. It is a great way to connect the children and adults in your church.



Invite the children to respond to this story using the adaptable “God’s Story” printable reflection page. [Free printables for this story.](#)

Crafts:

- Draw a picture of a camel like Rebekah rode.
- Find Haran and Nahor on a Bible map and recreate your own map. Children can make their own map and/or the class can make a big map for the classroom.

Print and use these free bookmarks, trading cards or timelines. [Free printables for this story.](#)

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Other Online Resources:

- [Colouring page with text \(Ministry Spark\)](#)
- [Colouring page \(Christian Answers\)](#)
- [Craft: Rebekah’s jewellery craft \(Sunday School Crafts\)](#)
- [Craft: Make a camel like the ones Rebecca watered at the well \(Learn Create Love\)](#)
- [Other: Great visuals to print and worksheet ideas \(Bible Fun for Kids\)](#)

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