

General Church Education



# Finding a Wife for Isaac

Genesis 24:1-67

## Lesson 9

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 2: The Lord Is Our Shepherd

For ages 7-8 years

## Finding a Wife for Isaac

### Genesis 24:1-67

#### Ideas for Parents & Teachers

Isaac is the son that Abraham and Sarah had longed for. His name means “laughter.” Sarah had laughed in disbelief when she heard that she would have a child in her old age. In this story Isaac has grown up, and it is time for him to marry. Abraham sends a trusted servant to find a wife for Isaac. It was important for Isaac to take a wife from his own relatives and not from the Canaanites because they did not worship the Lord.

Isaac and Rebekah picture willingness to trust and obey the Lord. These are essential qualities to have if the Lord is to guide us to our true marriage partner and to the life of heaven. Together, Isaac and Rebekah tried to follow the Lord. The Lord blessed them with wealth and happiness in their marriage and gave them children. Parents in our society no longer choose the marriage partner for their children, but they can prepare them to make wise choices for themselves. We can guide our children to see that if they trust and obey the Lord in their lives, He will provide the happiness they want.

#### Ideas for Children

- When we trust and obey the Lord, He will bring happiness into our lives.
- The Lord leads people to find their married partners when they trust Him and follow Him, if not in this world, then in heaven.
- Isaac was the second patriarch. He also followed the Lord.

#### From the Writings

For people who desire truly conjugal love, the Lord provides similar partners. If they are not found on earth, He provides them in heaven. All marriages of truly conjugal love are provided by the Lord. I once heard how they are provided in heaven described by angels as follows:

The Lord’s Divine providence is most specific in connection with marriages because all delights of heaven flow from the delights of conjugal love. It is therefore provided that conjugal pairs be born, raised, and continually prepared for their marriages under the Lord’s guidance, neither the boy nor the girl being aware of it. After a period of time, the girl, now a marriageable young woman, and the boy, now a young man ready to marry, meet as though by fate, and notice each other. They immediately recognize that they are a match, thinking to themselves as from a kind of inner dictate, the man, “she is mine,” and the woman, “he is mine.” Later, after this thought has for some time become settled in the minds of each, they talk about it together and pledge themselves to each other in marriage.

We say as though by fate, by instinct and as from a kind of dictate, when we mean by Divine Providence, because when one is unaware that it is Divine Providence, that is how it appears. For the Lord unveils their inner similarities so that they notice each other. See *Conjugal Love* 229

## Finding a Wife for Isaac

Abraham obeyed the Lord and the Lord granted Abraham and Sarah a son of their own in their old age. Abraham was one hundred years old and Sarah was ninety when their son Isaac was born. They were so happy to have a son of their own, especially when they were so old and they had waited so long. They named him Isaac. In Hebrew Isaac means “laughter.” Sarah had laughed in disbelief when she was told that she would have a baby at such an old age.

Abraham wanted to leave all his land and possessions to Isaac when he died. Abraham also wanted his son to have something even more important. He wanted Isaac to trust and obey the Lord as he always had and to have a wife who would also trust and obey the Lord.

### A Wife for Isaac

The time came for Isaac to marry. Back then parents chose the marriage partner for their children. Abraham did not want Isaac to marry a Canaanite woman because the people that lived in the land around Abraham’s family did not worship Jehovah. They worshiped idols. Do you know what an idol is? (Statues made of stone or wood that people worship instead of God.)

Abraham wanted his son Isaac to marry a woman from his own relatives, someone who



would also worship the Lord. But his family lived far away. Do you remember the name of the city where most of Abraham’s family settled when they left the land of Ur? (Haran, also called the city of Nahor.)

Let’s read about how Abraham sent his oldest and most trusted servant to find a wife for Isaac. This was a very important job for the servant, and he swore to do it faithfully. See if you can find out what two things Abraham asked his servant to do and whether the servant thought this plan would work.

**Read Genesis 24:1-8.** What was the first thing Abraham asked his old servant to do? (Go to Abraham’s old country and to his family to find a wife for his son Isaac.) What was the servant

worried about? (That the woman might not want to come back with him.) What did Abraham tell the servant not to do? (Take Isaac back to the old country with him.)

Abraham believed that the Lord would guide the servant and told him that an angel would go with him to give him success. Now read the next part and see what the servant took with him and what the servant did that showed he trusted the Lord.

**Read Genesis 24:9-14.** How many camels did the servant take with him? (Ten.) What did the servant do that showed his faith and trust? (He prayed to the Lord God to guide him and give him a sign in order to discover the right woman.) In these times people had to get all their water from a well. Do you know what a well is? (A deep hole dug in the ground down to the level of water.)



Think about all the things you use water for: drinking, washing, cleaning. Imagine having to get all your water from a well. Most of the time there was just one well in a city. Families sent someone out to get water and carry it back home in jugs. They also had to draw water out of the well for their animals. They built troughs to hold the water for the animals to drink.

The Lord led the servant safely to the gate of the city of Nahor. He had his thirsty camels kneel down. Here the young women of the city were coming out at evening to draw water in their pitchers and jars. What sign did the servant ask of the Lord? (The right woman would be the one who would give not only him but also his camels water when he asked her for a drink.) Let's read on.

**Read Genesis 24:15-20.** What was the name of the young woman who came out? (Rebekah.) What family was she from? (Nahor, Abraham's brother's family.) What did she look like? (She was beautiful.)

The servant asked for a sign from the Lord. The right woman would be the one who gave him and his camels a drink from the well. Rebekah came to the well and filled her pitcher to give the water that he and his animals needed. The old servant was so happy to find out that Rebekah was a relative of Abraham. What did she do when she had filled her pitcher with water? (She gave Abraham's servant a drink and then drew water for his camels until they had finished drinking too.)

**Read Genesis 24:21-29** to find out what presents the servant gave to Rebekah. What presents did he give Rebekah? (A ring and two bracelets made of gold.)

Rebekah's family welcomed the servant, providing straw and feed for the camels and water to wash with. They prepared the house and made a good meal, but the servant would not eat until he had told them about his errand. When he told them where he was from and all that had happened, they felt that the Lord had led him there, and that it was right for Rebekah to become Isaac's wife. The servant gave Rebekah many gifts. He also gave her mother and brother gifts. The family asked Rebekah if she was ready to go, and she said she was. She trusted that this was the Lord's will for her and was willing to travel to a distant land to marry.

Isaac joyfully received the wife that was chosen for him. Isaac and Rebekah fell in love, and the Lord blessed their marriage with great happiness. They made their home together in the land of Canaan and looked to the Lord to guide them.

### **Looking for the Lord's Guidance for Marriage**

This is a beautiful story about asking the Lord to guide us, especially in the big decisions in our lives. When people marry, it is very important that they believe the same things about what is right and wrong and have similar ideas about worshiping the Lord. When husband and wife wish above all to do the Lord's will, their marriage will be blessed with happiness.

Married partners love their friends, but they love each other most of all. The love of a happy marriage is called "conjugal love." It is a precious gift from the Lord. You may wonder how you will find the person the Lord wants you to marry when you are older. We can only do this with the Lord's help. The book *Conjugal Love* tells us that everyone finds their conjugal partner either in this world or in the next. All the angels in heaven are married. We can help by praying to the Lord and asking for a partner that is right for us. We can also try to become the kind of person who trusts and obeys the Lord like Abraham did.

### **Discussion Questions**

- How did the servant ask the Lord to help him discover the right wife for Isaac? (He prayed for a sign that the right woman would offer to give him and his camels a drink.)
- How do you think Abraham's servant felt when Rebekah came to the well and was so helpful? (He must have been very grateful to the Lord for helping him discover a woman from Abraham's family.)
- Can you tell some good ways for a person to find the right marriage partner? (Answers may include asking the Lord for guidance, praying to find your conjugal partner, trusting and obeying the Lord, remembering that marriage is something sacred and holy established by the Lord, treating people of the opposite sex and all things related to marriage with respect.)

# Activity Overview | Finding a Wife for Isaac

## Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

Trust in the Lord, and do good;  
Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.  
Delight yourself also in the Lord,  
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.  
Commit your way to the Lord,  
Trust also in Him,  
And He shall bring it to pass. Psalm 37:3-5

## Songs

*Dona Nobis Pacem*

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-dona-nobis-pacem/>

*Humbly Lord We Ask Thy Blessing*

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-humbly-lord-we-ask-thy-blessing/>

## Activities

Choose one or two.

- Activity 1 | Act Out Isaac Meeting Rebekah with Stick Puppets
- Activity 2 | Dot to Dot Picture of Abraham's Servant Meeting Rebekah at the Well
- Picture to color

## Additional Activity Ideas

- Offer a thirsty person a drink of water. Notice ways in which helping others brings joy.



## Activity 1 | Act Out Isaac Meeting Rebekah with Stick Puppets

Act out one or two scenes from the story, Abraham's servant meeting Rebekah, and Isaac meeting Rebekah, while the story is read from the Word.

### Supplies Needed

- stick puppet figures of Abraham's servant, Isaac, Rebekah, and a camel
- colored pencils or crayons
- scissors
- tape
- 4 sticks for mounting puppets e.g. popsicle sticks, straws or strips of stiff cardboard
- copy of the Word

### Directions

1. Color the puppet figures to make four puppets (Rebekah, Isaac, Abraham's servant, and a camel) using colored pencils or crayons.
2. Cut around the figures.
3. Tape a stick or stiff cardboard to the back of each puppet creating a handle for acting out the story.
4. Set up an area for acting out the story, such as tacking up a sheet in a doorway.
5. Cut around the figures.
6. Tape a stick to the back of each puppet creating a handle for acting out the story.
7. Set up an area for acting out the story, such as tacking up a sheet in a doorway to create a puppet theater. Act out the story above the sheet as the story is read from the Word.
8. Props are helpful, but you can use your imagination if you want to keep things simple.
9. An adult reads the story while children act it out.

### Scene 1: Abram's Servant Meets Rebekah, Genesis 24:15-28

Puppets: Rebekah, Abraham's servant, Camel.

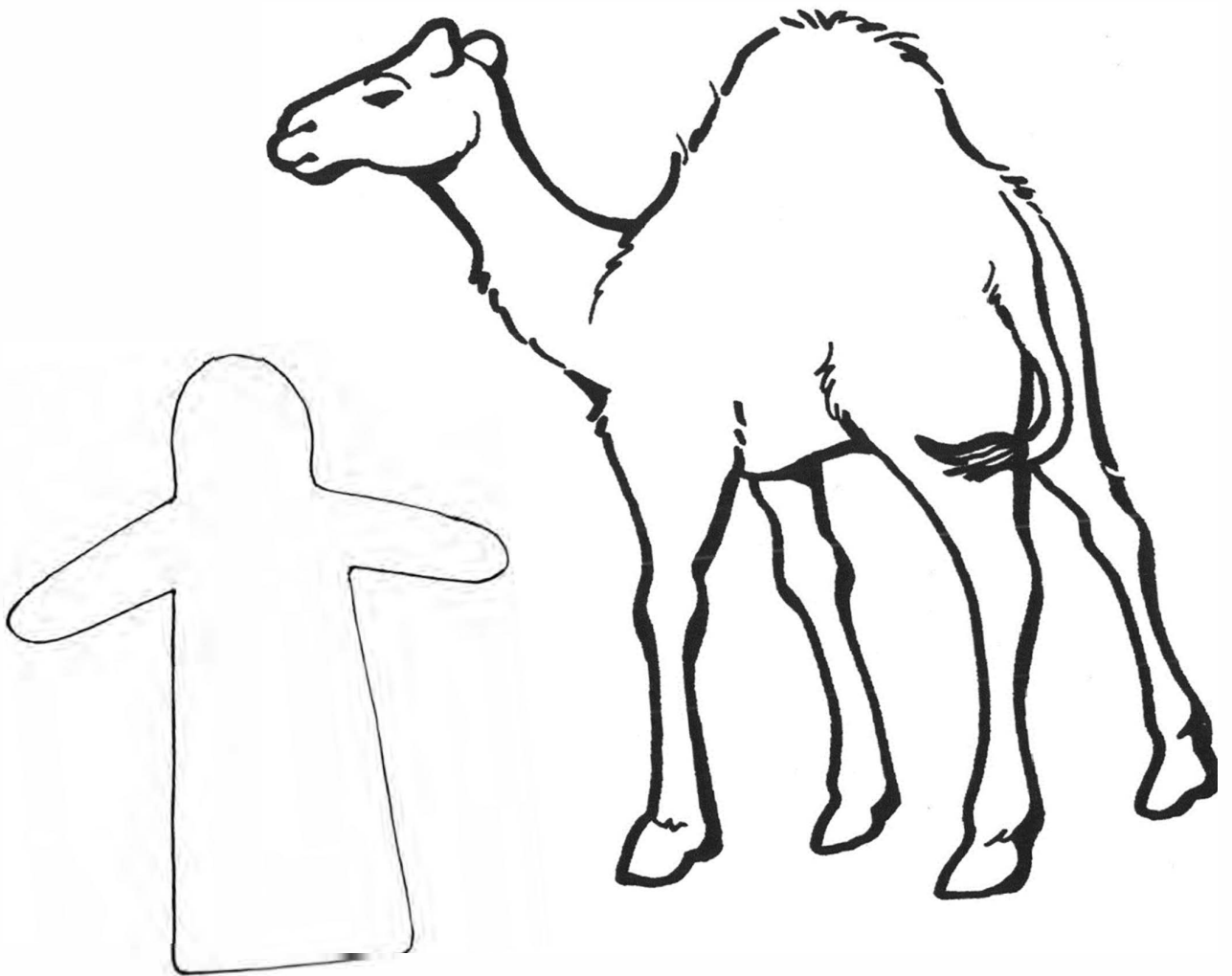
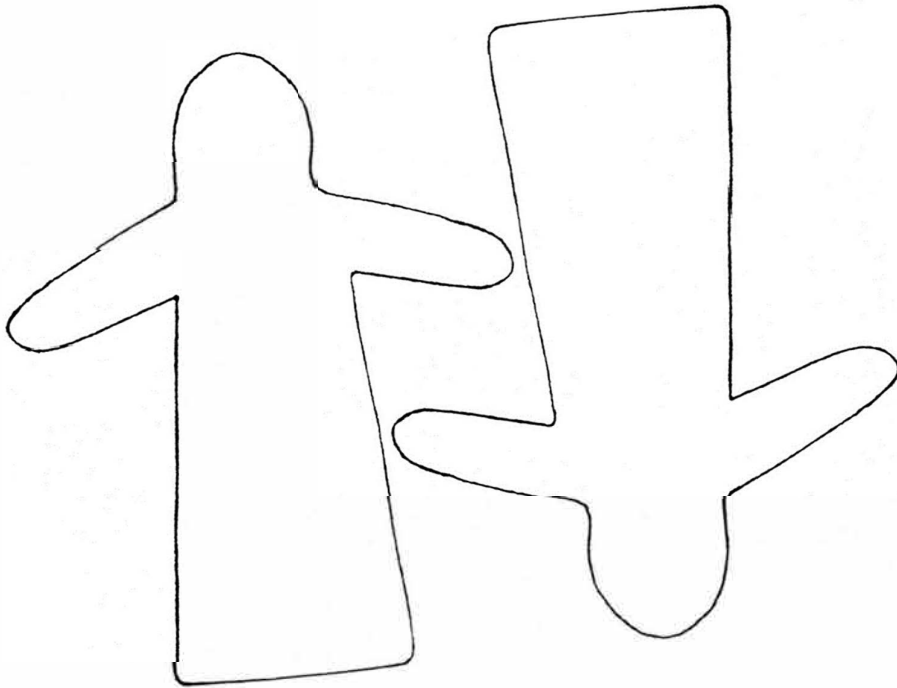
*Optional Props:* Pitcher, golden ring, two bracelets

Rebekah comes out and meets Abraham's servant. She gives the servant a drink of water, and waters his camels as well. The servant gives Rebekah a nose ring, two bracelets, and tells her who she is.

### Scene 2: Isaac Meets Rebekah, Genesis 24:62-67

Puppets: Isaac, Rebekah, Abraham's servant, camel

Isaac meets Rebekah and she enters into his house.





## Activity 2 | Abram's Servant Meets Rebekah Dot to Dot

Follow the dots to see a picture of Abraham's servant meeting Rebekah at the well. Color the picture.

