

GIFTS FOR A BRIDE



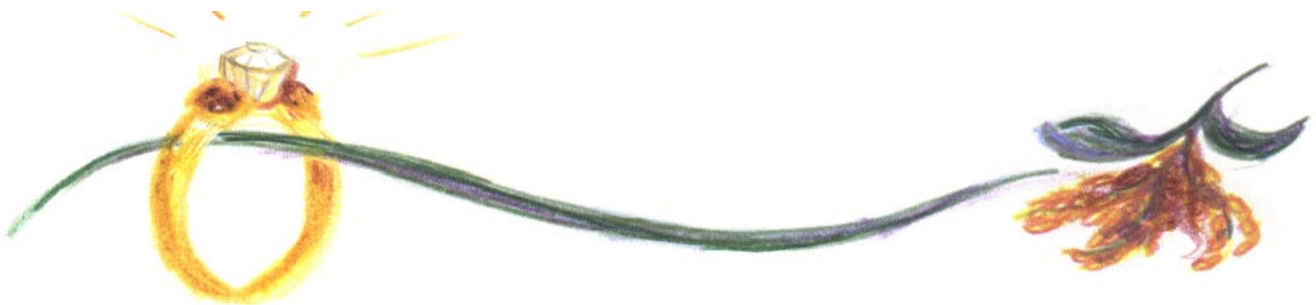
Stories from *Genesis 24* and *Conjugal Love 20*
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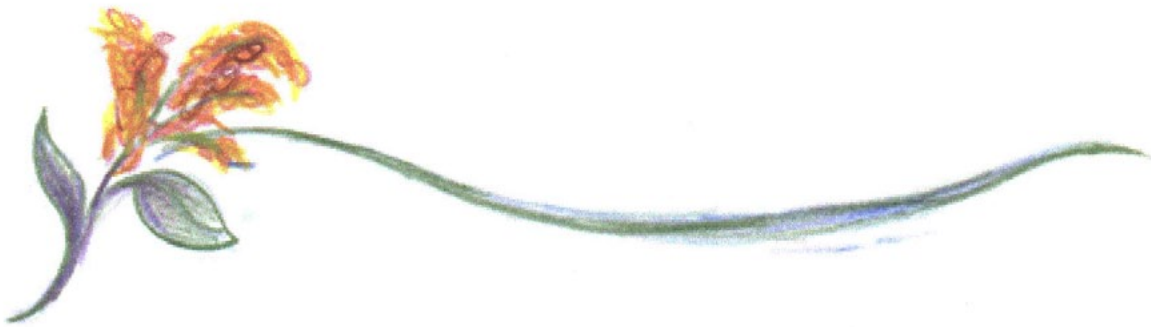
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Does your mother have a special ring on her finger? Dads often wear a ring too.

The rings are precious gifts. They can be signs or tokens of love and a promise of marriage. Two people make the promise to each other and to the Lord because marriage is a special love that the Lord gives.





Long ago, a man named Isaac lived in Canaan. Isaac was not married, so his parents, Abraham and Sarah, sent their servant on a journey to find a wife for their son.

The servant took gifts with him to give to the woman who would be Isaac's wife. They trusted that the Lord would lead the servant to the right person for Isaac.

He traveled a long way on his camels. Then he came to a well. The servant prayed to the Lord to help find the wife for Isaac. He said, "Let the woman be the one who will say, when I ask for a drink of water, 'Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink' " (Genesis 24:14).



Then Rebekah came to the well to fill her pitcher. The servant asked her for water to drink. When she had given him a drink, Rebekah said, "I will draw water for your camels, also" (Genesis 24:19). The servant was amazed, because he realized she was the woman the Lord wanted to marry Isaac.



The servant took a special gold ring and two bracelets out of a camel's pack and gave them to Rebekah as a promise from Isaac. She ran home to tell her family what had happened. The servant was invited to her family's house. He told the family of his journey and how the Lord had shown him Rebekah. He asked her family if they would let Rebekah marry Isaac.

"Yes," her family said. Then they asked Rebekah herself, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will go" (Genesis 24:58).

The servant bowed down and worshipped the Lord, and thanked Him.



When the servant returned with Rebekah, Isaac was in a field. Looking up, he saw the camels coming. Then Rebekah saw Isaac. Rebekah got down from her camel and covered herself with a veil, which was the custom. Isaac came to her. He married her and she became his wife, and he loved her.

In the book of the Writings called Conjugal Love, there is another story about gifts for a bride is about a wedding in heaven.

The guests who were invited to the wedding were sent special wedding clothes by the prince. They followed an angel guide to a room where there were many beautiful things prepared for the wedding.

Then six bridesmaids and the bridegroom and bride came in. They were the man and woman who were going to marry. The bridegroom and bride were holding each other's hands. They were wearing beautiful wedding clothes. The bridegroom wore a purple robe and a tunic of shining linen. On his chest was a plate of gold engraved with a young eagle. The bride was clothed with a scarlet cloak, and under that was an embroidered gown with a



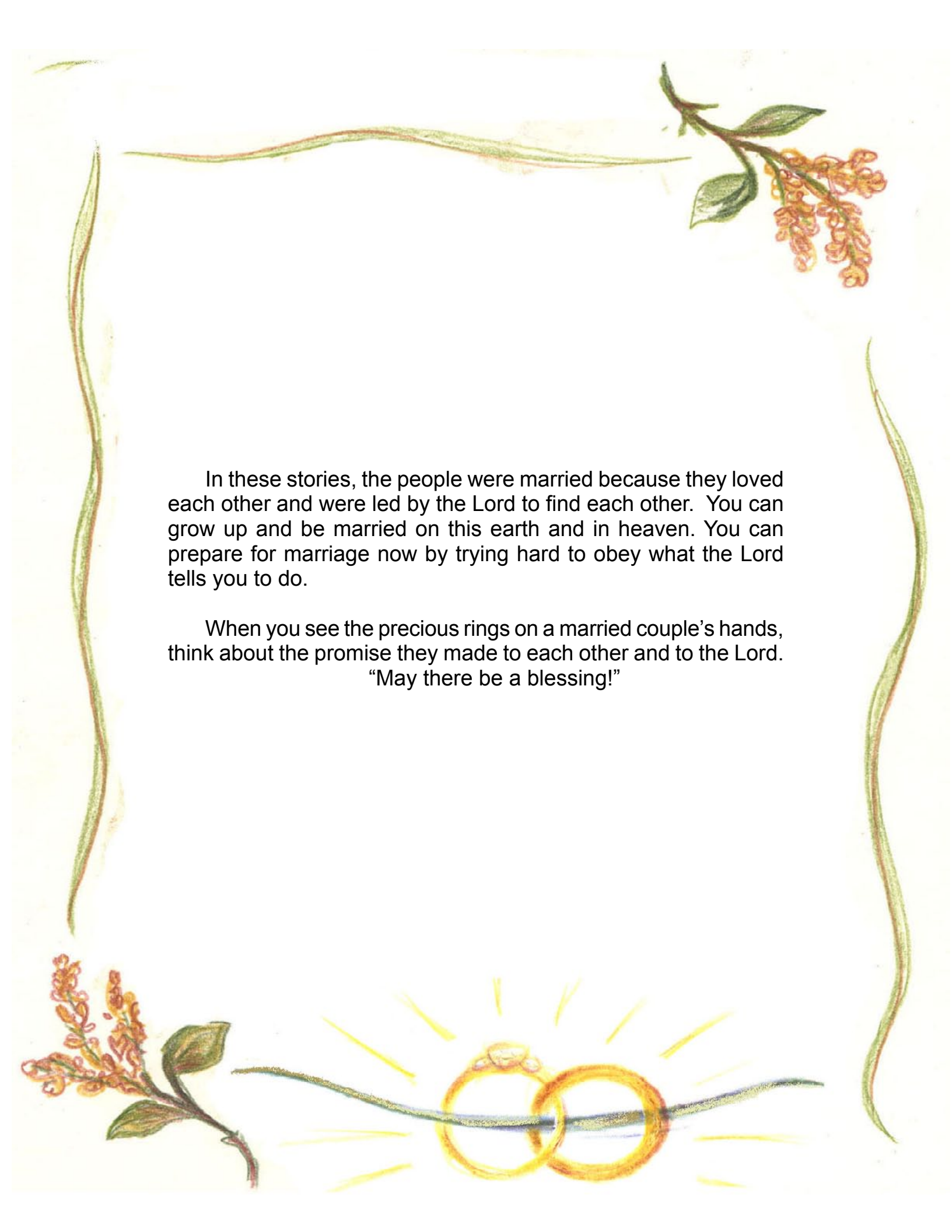
golden belt, and on her head was a crown of gold.

They promised to love each other forever. The bridegroom turned to his bride and placed a gold ring on her finger. Then he gave her bracelets and a necklace of pearls. As she took them, he kissed her and said, "Now you are mine," and he called her his wife. They would live happily forever in heaven.

Whenever the wife looked at these gifts, she would remember her husband's love. And whenever her husband looked at his wife and saw her ring, her bracelets and her pearl necklace, he would smile and know, "She is mine."

All the guests at the wedding were happy. "May there be a blessing!" they called out. Then they smelled a sweet smell. It was a sign of a blessing from the Lord in heaven.





In these stories, the people were married because they loved each other and were led by the Lord to find each other. You can grow up and be married on this earth and in heaven. You can prepare for marriage now by trying hard to obey what the Lord tells you to do.

When you see the precious rings on a married couple's hands, think about the promise they made to each other and to the Lord.
"May there be a blessing!"

