



Mustard Seed Children's Summary for September 30, 2007
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"Isaac and Rebekah"

MEMORY VERSE: "I...blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way to take my master's brother's daughter unto his son" (Genesis 24:48)

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: Genesis 24:34-40, 42-45, 48

34 And he said, I am Abraham's servant.

35 And the LORD hath blessed my master greatly; and he is become great: and he hath given him flocks, and herds, and silver, and gold, and menservants, and maidservants, and camels, and asses.

36 And Sarah my master's wife bare a son to my master when she was old: and unto him hath he given all that he hath.

37 And my master made me swear, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife to my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell:

38 But thou shalt go unto my father's house, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son.

39 And I said unto my master, Peradventure the woman will not follow me.

40 And he said unto me, The LORD, before whom I walk, will send his angel with thee, and prosper thy way; and thou shalt take a wife for my son of my kindred, and of my father's house:

42 And I came this day unto the well, and said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, if now thou do prosper my way which I go:

43 Behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass, that when the virgin cometh forth to draw water, and I say to her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water of thy pitcher to drink;

44 And she say to me, Both drink thou, and I will also draw for thy camels: let the same be the woman whom the LORD hath appointed out for my master's son.

45 And before I had done speaking in mine heart, behold, Rebekah came forth with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down unto the well, and drew water: and I said unto her, Let me drink, I pray thee.

48 And I bowed down my head, and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way to take my master's brother's daughter unto his son.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that believers who trust and obey God are led in the way that is best.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. We can and should pray for God's guidance and help.
2. God's way is always the best way.
3. We should praise God for His help in our lives.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For "Telling the Lesson," bring in pictures of various streets signs.

For the "Helping to Remember" section, for each child, you will need: various outlines of common street signs (triangle, octagon, square, etc.) - enough for each child to choose their own shape, crayons, colored pencils, and markers.

Photocopy the activity at the end of this lesson summary for each child, or have other age appropriate activities on hand to further emphasize the object of the lesson.

TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:

Throughout God's dealings with Abraham (from leaving his homeland and journeying to a strange country), God promised to bless him and his descendants. After many years, Abraham and Sarah had finally been blessed with the son that God promised them. Isaac was this son of promise, and he would grow up in the land of Canaan, which would become the land that God's people would inherit as the "promised land." However, the land of Canaan was filled with many different nations of people who had their own ideas about worship and had no real knowledge of the true and living God.

Isaac grew to be a man, and Abraham wanted to find a good wife for him. The events in this week's lesson deal with finding a suitable wife for Isaac. In Genesis 24, we learn that Abraham committed the task to a trusted servant. This servant is described as the most trusted, and overseer of all that Abraham had (Genesis 24:2). He is given the special task of traveling back to Abraham's homeland to find a wife for Isaac. One source estimates this journey to be about 450 miles and travel time to be about one month.

The lesson for this week begins at the point that the servant reached his destination, met the girl that he believed was the right one (Rebekah), and now was a guest in her parents' home relating to them the purpose of his mission. Consider the following questions as you prepare the lesson for your students:

1. What forms of material wealth did Abraham possess?

Abraham had been abundantly blessed by the Lord and was known for his great material wealth. The wealth of that day was measured in the number of animals, servants and precious metals that a person had. Abraham had been blessed with sheep and cattle, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys (Genesis 24:35). The servant used this information to help vouch for the influential status of Abraham and to explain that Isaac would inherit all this wealth (Genesis 24:36).

2. Why did Abraham not want Isaac to marry a woman from Canaan?

Abraham did not want Isaac to marry a woman from the land that they lived in. Remember that this was basically a strange land to Abraham and his family. Abraham had left his homeland, at God's direction, and had traveled to this new place (Canaan) that God promised to give to him and his descendants. Abraham was committed to serving the Lord God and ensuring that his descendants did the same. The Canaanites had no clear knowledge of the true and living God, and Abraham did not want his descendants corrupt by the beliefs and worship practices of their neighbors. Isaac was the heir to God's special covenant with Abraham and would, in turn, pass it down to his descendants. Abraham realized that this

required a suitable wife for his son, and he sent his servant elsewhere to find a bride for Isaac.

Note: The idea of an “arranged” marriage may seem odd to your students. But at this time, the parents of the bride and groom usually arranged marriages. The parents of the bride and groom would normally use someone else (a third party) to make the first steps about discussing marriage between their children.

3. Describe the servant’s mission and its results.

The servant was instructed to go to Abraham’s relatives and find a wife for Isaac (Genesis 24:2-4). The long journey ended at a well of water where the servant expected to find a wife from among the young women that came to draw water from the well. The servant prayed for a sign from God that would point to which woman to choose. After finding who he believed to be the right woman, he became a guest in her parents’ home and related to them the purpose of his mission and negotiated to bring Rebekah back to Canaan to be Isaac’s wife. The rest of Genesis 24 describes how Rebekah’s family believed “the matter” to be from God and agreed to let her return to Canaan with the servant, where she became Isaac’s wife (24:49-67).

Note: The servant did not know exactly who would be the wife for Isaac. He needed God to show him, so he requested a sign. We use signs all the time when we travel. Show the pictures of the street signs that you brought for the class. Discuss how these signs give us direction, telling us where to turn and when to stop. Abraham’s servant did not need these kinds of signs. He needed a sign for God that would show him something to help him to choose.

4. Describe Rebekah and how she fulfilled the requirements to be Isaac’s wife?

Rebekah is described as a young woman that was chaste and very beautiful (Genesis 24:16). Rebekah fulfilled the requirements of the sign that the servant asked of God. The servant prayed asking God to let the woman he should choose not only give him water to drink but to also volunteer to water the camels. When Rebekah came to the well, the servant asked her for a drink, and she gave him water. She also gave water to his camels. God had answered the servant’s prayer. Not only did she perform according to the sign that the servant had requested, but he also learned that she was indeed a member of Abraham’s extended family. He knew that Rebekah was the woman he would take home to Isaac.

Note: The sign that the servant requested from the Lord may not sound like a big deal, but this specific sign would have been a difficult one. It would not have been hard to find a young woman polite enough to give a stranger a drink of water when he asked for it, but for one to offer to water his camels as well would be something else altogether. Camels are capable of going many days without water, but when it is available, they have a huge thirst. The servant’s caravan consisted of ten camels (Genesis 24:10) and if each camel could drink 25 gallons of water in a few minutes (as one source indicates), Rebekah would have committed herself to providing 200 to 250 gallons of water out of the well. At one or two gallons each time she dipped her pitcher, this would have meant raising and lowering her pitcher more than 100 times (no small task).

5. How did the servant respond to the success of his mission?

The servant could have made himself the “hero” in the story, but he did not take credit for the success of the mission. He understood that the Lord had led him to Rebekah. The servant praised the Lord for guiding him to Rebekah – he worshiped the Lord God that had led him “in the right way” (Genesis 24:48). He thanked God for showing him the right way and the right person to marry Isaac. He had prayerfully sought guidance from the Lord and was thankful that God had answered his prayer. The servant did not hesitate to testify about the Lord’s faithfulness and his guidance. When the answer came, he remembered to express his thanksgiving.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

The servant in this week's lesson is a good model of how we should depend on God and pray to Him concerning every issue in our lives. Perhaps the most important thing we can learn from this story is the servant's view of an awesome God who will work on behalf of anyone who is willing to seek guidance from Him in prayer.

We may sometimes think that we have tough jobs to do and might not know what to do or where to start. Remember that God can help us and will hear us when we pray to Him. Go the way that God wants you to go, and thank Him for showing you the way.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Have the students select one of the outlines of a common street sign – a triangle, octagon, square or other shape that you have provided. Write in the middle of the shape "GO GOD'S WAY" and color the signs. Remind them to go God's way and discuss the importance of being led by God.

Use any other activities to help your students remember the important points of the lesson. These will vary depending on the age of your students. One activity has been included at the end of this lesson summary.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"I...blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way to take my master's brother's daughter unto his son" (Genesis 24:48)

Abraham's servant knew that he should praise and thank God for showing him the right way and the right person for Isaac to marry. The servant realized that God had made his journey successful. He, therefore, worshiped God for leading him and allowing him to meet Rebekah.

PRAYER

Father in Heaven, thank You for Your faithfulness. Help us to always pray for Your guidance and to obey. We praise You for always leading us in the way that is best. Help us to always trust You, in Jesus' name, amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "Trouble Between Brothers" from Genesis 25:19-34.

Lesson Summarized By:

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WORD SEARCH

**Isaac and Rebekah
(Gen. 24:34-40, 42-45, 48)**

Find each of the following words.

WORSHIP
CANAANITES
WATER
SERVANT

KINDRED
MASTER
CAMELS
PITCHER

ISAAC
REBEKAH
PROSPER
BLESSED

APPOINTED
ANGEL
WIFE
DAUGHTER

N T I O T N O A N A F T N T C W A S S V S D G
S R E H C T I P W R B A T A O L I S E P N A K
G E N B R W E E R T D S V R R S E P T E I A R
R E C S C H D E R E C W S E A C D G I I C P I
G E N T S C L S I S K H T A H N I N N R W P U
E E I V E R D B D K I H C A H I D O A A H O T
C R H E O K A E D P G H A T N O E E A C A I T
R R S C A M E L S U E R L E I S R R N G K N C
H I L P P P R R A S E C D P I A P G A H E T C
I T V A S E N D A P E D R E T S A M C D B E B
W H S A E A T C S E R L M A A A G E E E E D A
A E E E W E L O A P L O B C H H A A W T R I L
T R K I N D R E D M P V E H N W I F E T M E I
E E U A E P S T I F A A R O W P R I E O A N P
R E S E R V A N T E F V S N K S D D D W G A R
A P E E P O N E T P I A E S E S P I E T K S R

