

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Genesis

A WIFE FOR ISAAC

Genesis 24

Elementary Lesson

Year One, Quarter One, Lesson Eleven

[0110]

AIM: to teach each of my students that God has chosen him or her to be His child

OBJECTS TO HAVE: A bubble-gum machine
A pack of bubble gum, or several different kinds of gum
A picture of a camel
A picture of jewelry, or some costume jewelry
A picture of a well
A pitcher, or a picture of a pitcher
Your Bible

POINT OF CONTACT: When I was a boy, I used to go grocery shopping with my mother. After we paid for the groceries and put them into bags, we would put them in the cart and take them out to the car. On the way out to the car was my favorite thing: THE BUBBLE GUM MACHINES! Every week I would ask my mom for a quarter to get a piece of gum from the bubble gum machines. Usually the answer was “no”, because the bubble gum was not good for my teeth. But sometimes mom would say “yes”, and I would get to put the quarter in, turn the knob, and I would hear “chink” as the bubble gum would hit the little door. Then I would open the door and the bubble gum would come out into my hand. The only problem was that I could not **choose** exactly which piece I wanted. If I wanted a blue one, a red one might come out. If I wanted a yellow one, a green one might come out. I could choose which machine I wanted to get the gum from, but I couldn't **choose** exactly which color I would get. I would have to settle for **any old color**.

But there was another way to get gum. They also sold gum on the candy rack. How many of you have ever seen the gum on the candy rack? There are lots of different kinds of gum, aren't there? The good thing about **choosing** gum from the candy rack is that you get to pick exactly what kind you want. You can **choose** watermelon, blueberry, strawberry, grape, spearmint, or regular bubble gum flavor. You can **choose** the exact kind that you want.

So if you get gum from the bubble gum machine you might just get any old flavor that happens to come out. But if you buy it from the candy rack, you can **choose** exactly the flavor that you want.

Do you know that when God saved you, He **chose** you to be His child? He didn't go to the bubble-gum machine and say, “I'd like to save a little kid today, and make him My child. Any old kid will do!” No, God looked down and saw all of the children of the world one day; and on that day He pointed right at you and said, “I **choose him (her)** to be my child.” And that's the day that you got saved. God **chose** you because He specially wanted to save you and make you His child.

Today I'm going to tell you a story that will help you to understand what I mean.

STORY: The Bible tells us that God promised Abraham that He was going to give him a son. Twenty-five years later, God gave Abraham the son that He had promised him. The son's name was Isaac. Isaac was his daddy's pride and joy. Abraham loved Isaac with all of his heart.

As Isaac grew older, Abraham knew that soon Isaac should get married. Now back in those days, daddies and mommies picked the person that their son or daughter would marry. The dad and the mom would **choose** the person, and then they would bring them to them and say, “This is Henrietta. She's going to be your wife.” That sounds strange to us, but that is the way they did it in those days, and it did not seem strange to them at all.

Since Abraham knew that Isaac should be getting married soon, he knew that he had to get busy looking for exactly the right young lady. He knew that the girls who lived where he lived were not the right kind of girls. They were not saved, and they did not live for God like Abraham's family did. Abraham knew that the only place where he could find the kind of girl who lived like she ought to live and believed what she ought to believe was back in the city of Nahor where he came from. (By the way, kids, it is very important that you **choose** the right person to marry. Don't pick somebody because they are handsome or pretty, or because they have a lot of money, or because they are popular. You pick the person that is saved, that believes what is right, that lives for God, and that you are going to love for the rest of your life.)

So Abraham knew that, in order to find the right bride for Isaac, he would have to go far away to the country of Nahor. But Abraham was an old man, and he did not know if he could make that trip. So he called his most trusted servant and he said, "I have a very important job for you to do. You must go to my old country, to the city of Nahor, and you must find a bride for my son Isaac. You must **choose** a girl who is saved and who is living for God. Then you must convince her to come with you to marry my son Isaac. Do you promise to do this important job, and to do it right, even if I die before you get back?"

The servant promised that he would do the job exactly as Abraham had instructed him. He loaded up ten camels, and he took the long journey to Nahor. When he finally reached the city of Nahor, he made the camels to kneel down next to a well (every city had a well where all of the people went to draw water). And he prayed, "Lord, I don't want to pick just any old girl for Isaac. I want to pick exactly the girl that you want him to marry. I pray that when the right girl comes along, that if I ask to use her pitcher to get me a drink from the well, she will offer to get me a drink, and she will give my camels a drink also." (You see, that was a lot of work. Camels drink a lot of water, and it would take a really special girl to care enough to draw enough water from the well for ten camels). The servant finished praying, and as soon as he looked up, he saw a beautiful young woman coming his way. She was coming to the well, and she was carrying a large pitcher. The servant ran up to her and asked her if she could get him a drink from the well. She said, "Sure, I'd be glad to. **And let me draw water for all of your camels, too.**" The servant could not believe his ears! He watched in amazement as the beautiful young girl drew enough water to care for all ten of the camels, until they were not thirsty anymore. Then the servant said, "What is your name?" and the girl answered, "My name is *Rebekah*." He took out a beautiful earring and two beautiful bracelets. He put them on her and said, "Rebekah these are for you from my master Abraham." Then he asked, "Do you have a place where I can stay for the night?" Rebekah said, "You are welcome to come stay at our house. We have a place for you, and plenty of food for you and for your camels." The servant bowed down and thanked God for answering his prayer so quickly.

The servant met Rebekah's family, and got to know them. The more he talked to them, and the more he learned about them, the more he was convinced that this was the girl that God had chosen to be the wife of his master's son, Isaac. He gave more gifts to her and to her family, and he gained permission for her to become Isaac's wife. Her family said, "Yes," and Rebekah agreed. The next morning they began their journey back to the place where Abraham and Isaac lived. Isaac and Rebekah were married and they enjoyed a wonderful, happy life together.

That was an awful lot of work to make sure that Isaac got exactly the right wife, wasn't it? But that was not nearly as much work as God did to make sure that you got saved. God wanted **you** to be His child. If everybody else in the whole world received Jesus as their Saviour, but you did not, God's heart would be broken, because God specially chose **you**. You were His special choice. The day that you got saved was the day that God pointed right at you and said, "That's him! I want him to be my child!"

There is nobody in the world who is more special to God than you are. God has a place in His heart that belongs just to you, and nobody else can fill it. God knows everything about you. He knows your name, He knows your birthday, He knows your favorite color, He knows your favorite food, He knows your dreams, He knows your hurts and He knows your problems. You are God's special child, and nobody can ever take your place in His heart.

When you read your Bible every day, you are reading exactly the words that God has for you, and he will speak to your heart with the exact truth that He knows you need that day. You are His special child, and He has a special message for you from the Bible every day.

When you take time to talk to God in prayer every day, that is your special time with God. You don't have to wait in a long line, you don't have to leave a message on His voice mail. He listens to you with all of His attention, because you are His special child.

God has a special purpose for your life, a purpose that He knows will be very exciting and fulfilling to you. Only you can do God's special purpose for you. You are God's special child, and He chose you to be His child.

If you are here today, and you have never received Jesus as your Saviour, God is choosing you today. God is pointing right at you today and saying, "That's him! I want him to be saved today!" Won't you take Jesus to be your Saviour today?

Let's learn our memory verse: **John 1:12** - *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.*

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A WIFE FOR ISAAC

Genesis 24

Teen and Adult Lesson

Year One, Quarter One, Lesson Eleven

[0110]

Teacher, choose one of the following truths to expand upon in teaching this portion of Scripture to your teen/adult class. Teach and apply the truth that you choose using statements and illustrations that are most helpful and applicable to your students.

- I. **GOD CHOSE YOU TO BE A PART OF THE “BRIDE OF CHRIST.”** This story is very symbolic. Abraham represents the Heavenly Father, Isaac is a picture of God the Son, and the servant is a picture of the Spirit of God. God’s Spirit is choosing a bride for Christ, and He is very careful in His choosing. Rebekah represents the church, Christ’s bride. The fact that you are saved says that you were chosen by the Spirit of God to be a part of Christ’s bride. You did not happen to get saved. You are not an extra, or an outsider. You were selected by God to be His Son’s bride.
- II. **GOD HAS YOUR FUTURE PERFECTLY PLANNED FOR YOU.** 24:7. Abraham trusted God to provide the wife for Isaac. Abraham had learned that God takes care of every detail. Trust God to take care of every detail of your life.
- III. **DO NOT FORCE OTHERS TO OPERATE ON YOUR FAITH.** 24:5-8. Abraham believed that God would lead the servant to the right woman, and that the right woman would be willing to come to Isaac. The servant, however, had his doubts. Abraham did not say, “Just trust me; she will follow you.” Instead, he put the servant’s mind at ease that, if she did not follow him home, he would be free of his oath. God teaches us to walk by faith, but those who follow us do not always have our level of faith. We must not belittle them or rebuke them; instead, we should encourage them, and use it as an opportunity to build their faith. By the time this story ends, the servant’s faith was strengthened.
- IV. **GOD KNOWS HOW TO LEAD YOU IN HIS PLAN.** 24:11-26. This servant had done everything he knew to do; when he could do no more, he relied on God’s direction. God led him perfectly. God knows exactly how to lead you.
- V. **THE BEST WAY TO BE LED OF GOD IS TO BE BUSY FOR GOD.** 24:27. God does not lead people who wait on the sidelines; God leads people who are in the game, working for Him, doing everything they can to contribute to His work. This statement, “I being in the way, the Lord led me,” is one of the best pieces of wisdom for how to find God’s perfect will for you.

A Wife for Isaac

Genesis 24

[0110]

Abraham Sends His Servant to Find A Bride for His Son

- I. GENESIS 24:1-9 Abraham Instructs His Servant
 - 1-4 Abraham tells his servant where to find a wife for Isaac
 - 5-8 Abraham answers his servant's question
 - 9 Abraham's servant vows to accomplish the task
- II. GENESIS 24:10-27 The Servant Meets Rebekah
 - 10-14 The servant prays by the well
 - 15-20 Rebekah draws water for the servant and his camels
 - 21-25 Rebekah tells the servant who she is
 - 26-27 The servant worships the Lord
- III. GENESIS 24:28-53 The Servant Meets Rebekah's Family
 - 28-33 Rebekah's brother invites the servant to stay with them
 - 34-48 The servant tells Rebekah's family of his mission
 - 49-53 Rebekah's family agrees to give her in marriage
- IV. GENESIS 24:54-61 Rebekah Goes with Abraham's Servant
 - 54-58 Rebekah agrees to go with the servant
 - 59-61 The servant returns to Abraham with Rebekah
- V. GENESIS 24:62-67 Isaac Marries Rebekah
 - 62-63 Isaac sees them approaching
 - 64-65 Rebekah sees Isaac
 - 66 The servant tells Isaac the whole story
 - 67 Isaac marries Rebekah

John 1:12

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.

A Wife for Isaac

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[0110]

Circle the letter next to the correct answer to each question from the Scripture passage and from today's Bible story.

1. What was the name of Abraham's son?
a. Isaiah b. Israel c. Isaac
2. In those days, who chose the person you were going to marry?
a. the king b. your neighbors c. your parents
3. Whom did Abraham send to find a wife for Isaac?
a. his servant b. a matchmaker c. a librarian
4. Where did Abraham send him to find a wife for Isaac?
a. New York b. the place he was from c. Miami
5. What was the servant near when he knelt to pray?
a. a well b. a bell c. a wall
6. What was the name of the girl that he met when he finished praying?
a. Rhonda b. Rita c. Rebekah
7. She drew water for the servant and for what else?
a. the plants b. the neighbors c. the camels
8. What gift had Abraham sent for the girl the servant would meet?
a. a dozen roses b. earrings and bracelets c. a nice casserole
9. What did the servant do when he knew he had found the right girl?
a. he worshipped the LORD b. he danced around c. he high-fived his friends
10. What was Isaac's reaction when he met Rebekah?
a. he didn't like her b. he loved her c. he sent her back

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The answers to today's puzzle

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