

Bible Stories for Adults

Isaac Marries Rebekah

Genesis 23-24, 26

Opening

Gathering: Tell of a situation that appeared to be random at the time, but God's hand is evident when looking back.

Today's Focus: To recognize that God is in control of everything that happens in our lives and even works in what we might call coincidences or random occurrences.

Key Verses: *This is from the Lord; we can say nothing to you one way or the other.* Genesis 24:50

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. Genesis 2:24

Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. Galatians 4:28

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Sarah Dies (*Genesis 23:1-9*)

What happened when Isaac was 37 years old?

Genesis 23:1-2

Besides losing his lifetime partner, what problem did this present for Abraham?

Genesis 23:3-4

How did the Hittites respond to his request to buy a burial site?

Genesis 23:5-6

Did Abraham have a site in mind?

Genesis 23:7-9

Ephron's Field (*Genesis 23:10-20*)

How did Ephron respond to this request?

Genesis 23:10-11

Note: Hittite laws said that a landowner remained liable for all dues if he sold only a part of a property. If an entire tract of property was passed on, the new owner was responsible for the dues.

How did Abraham respond to this generous offer by Ephron?

Genesis 23:12-13

Where have we seen a similar reaction by Abraham before, and why did he respond this way?

Genesis 14:21-23

Did Ephron accept Abraham's money?

Genesis 23:14-16

Did Ephron deed over the entire field or only the cave that Abraham requested?

Genesis 23:17-20

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Abraham Puts His House In Order (*Genesis 24:1-9*)

What did the death of Sarah prompt Abraham to take care of before he died?

Genesis 24:1-4

Why was it important that Isaac marry from within the family?

Genesis 17:7-10,14

Who was this chief servant to whom Abraham entrusted the mission?

Genesis 15:2

What concerns did the servant have?

Genesis 24:5-6

Why didn't Abraham want Isaac to go to Haran?

Genesis 15:13, 18

Why wasn't Abraham concerned that the woman wouldn't come?

Genesis 24:7-8

How did Abraham make sure this would be done, even if he died first?

Genesis 24:9

At The Well (*Genesis 24:10-14*)

How far was the servant's journey?

Genesis 24:10

What tactic did the servant use to meet local girls?

Genesis 24:11

What other wives did God bring to the well?

Genesis 29:1-2, 9

Exodus 2:15-16, 21

What did the servant do as soon as he arrived at the well?

Genesis 24:12-14

God Brings Rebekah (*Genesis 24:15-27*)

How long did it take God to respond to the servant's prayer?

Genesis 24:15

What was Rebekah's relation to Isaac?

Genesis 11:27-29 (22:20-24)

What requirements had Abraham given his servant for his son's wife?

Genesis 24:4

What bonuses did God throw in?

Genesis 24:16

How much did the servant coax Rebekah to complete the sign from God?

Genesis 24:17-21

What did the servant do when it appeared that Rebekah might be the one?

Genesis 24:22

What was the final proof that Rebekah was the one God had sent?

Genesis 24:23-25

How did the servant respond to this proof?

Genesis 24:26-27

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Brother Laban (*Genesis 24:28-32*)

How did Rebekah's brother Laban respond when he saw the expensive gifts Rebekah received?

Genesis 24:28-31

What character traits does this indicate of Laban that are confirmed later?

Genesis 29:20-23

Genesis 31:19

Genesis 31:43, 29

The Servant's Mission (*Genesis 24:33-52*)

How did the servant respond to the lavish hospitality?

Genesis 24:32-33

NOTE: It was bad manners to decline a host's food & to raise issues before casual meal talk

Did the servant say he would force Rebekah to return with him?

Genesis 24:34-41

What was the underlying message of the servant's recounting of events?

Genesis 24:42-48

Did Laban and Bethuel recognize this message?

Genesis 24:49-51

How did the servant respond when his mission met success?

Genesis 24:52

Marriage Customs in Patriarchal Times (*Genesis 24:53-67*)

Parents of the man would choose the woman their son would marry

Was this custom followed for Isaac's marriage?

Genesis 24:3-4

Was this custom followed in the next generation?

Genesis 26:34-35

Genesis 27:46-28:2

The father of the woman would give his daughter to the future husband

Was this custom followed for Isaac's marriage?

Genesis 24:50-51

A purchase price (*bride price*) was paid to the bride's father

Was this custom followed for Isaac's marriage?

Genesis 24:53

The bride's father gave his daughter a gift of property or a maid (*dowry*)

Was this custom followed for Isaac's marriage?

Genesis 24:59

The *betrothal* was an engagement period that was legally binding

Was this custom followed for Isaac's marriage?

Genesis 24:54-58

What was significant about the blessing Rebekah's family gave her?

Genesis 24:60

After the betrothal, the bride was brought to her husband's home

Was this custom followed for Isaac's marriage?

Genesis 24:61-66

In this process, people would marry first, then love

Did this occur in Isaac's marriage?

Genesis 24:67

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God Passes Covenant Promises to Isaac (*Genesis 26:1-5*)

Where did Isaac go during a time of famine, and why didn't he go to Egypt as his father had?

Genesis 26:1-2

What else did God say to Isaac, and why?

Genesis 26:3-5

Who Is She? (*Genesis 26:6-11*)

How had Abraham displayed a lack of trust in God when living in other nations?

Genesis 12:11-13; 20:1-2

Did Isaac learn from the mistakes of his father?

Genesis 26:6-7

How did Isaac's situation turn out?

Genesis 26:8-11

God Blesses Isaac (*Genesis 26:12-33*)

How did God bless Isaac in Philistia?

Genesis 26:12-13

How did this become a problem?

Genesis 26:14-16

Did Isaac take offense at Abimelech's request for him to leave?

Genesis 26:17-18

How did wells in this dry land become a problem for Isaac?

Genesis 26:19-22

Where did Isaac move next and what happened there?

Genesis 26:23-25

Why did the Philistine leaders track him down all the way to Beersheba?

Genesis 26:26-29

Abraham made a similar treaty at the same place with an earlier Abimelech (*Genesis 21:22-34*)

Did Isaac accept or refuse this request for a treaty?

Genesis 26:30-31

How did this story reinforce the name of this place given earlier by Abraham?

Genesis 26:32-33

Closing Prayer

Response

1. Do I deal honestly with everyone, even when it is easy to take advantage of someone? (*Genesis 23:12-16; 2 Kings 12:15; Jeremiah 5:1; Luke 19:8; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12*)
2. Do I look for and recognize God's guiding hand in my daily life? (*Genesis 24:39-52; 2 Chronicles 18:1-8; Psalm 25:4-5; 48:14; 73:23-24; 119:105; Luke 11:9-10; 12:31*)
3. If I am married, do I submit to and love my spouse as God desires? (*Genesis 24:67; 29:20; Proverbs 5:15-20; Song of Songs; Ephesians 5:21-33*)
4. Are there sins that my family has passed among generations? How can I stop them? (*Genesis 26:7-10; Deuteronomy 5:9-10; 1 Kings 15:25-26; Psalm 78:8; Ezekiel 18; Joel 1:3*)
5. Do I praise God when he showers me with His blessings? (*Genesis 24:26-27, 52; 26:22-25; Psalm 69:30; 100:4-5; 105:1; Ezekiel 34:25-31; Luke 17:12-19; 2 Cor. 9:15; 1 Thess. 5:18*)