

Isaac and Rebekah

Teacher Pep Talk: Congratulations! Today you are a Storyteller... This is one of my favorite lessons... probably because of the fun camel parts! (*And the associated camel trivia!*) This is a clear story of how God brings two people together as man and wife. What a fun way to teach children about how God cares about (and makes plans for) all the BIG things in our lives, while taking care of all the LITTLE details.

You will need: Bible

Major Points: Isaac was Abraham's Son
Isaac was Ready to be Married
God Provided a Wife for Isaac
(*Story of How Abraham's Servant Found Rebekah*)
God Cares About Our Lives

Scripture Ref: Genesis 24

Memory Verse: Genesis 24:56 ...*the LORD has granted success to my journey.*

Lesson:

Isaac was Abraham's Son

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]*
- We have learned that Abraham and Sarah had a son named Isaac. *[Review Timeline if available in classroom.]*
- He was a special son who had been promised to them by God
- Isaac was born miraculously in their old age! (Sarah had been 90 years old when he was born. And Abraham was 100 years old!) *[Count by 10's to 90 and then to 100. Have the children hold up their fingers to show 10, and count by 10's together.]*
- God had promised Abraham and Sarah a special son even in their old age, and He had kept His promise!
- We know that God ALWAYS keeps His promises!

Isaac was Ready to be Married

- Time had passed since Isaac was born, and now he was all grown up. In fact, Isaac was 40 years old!
- Isaac was ready to be married.
- His mother, Sarah, had died just a few (3) years earlier.
- His father, Abraham, was now VERY old... (*140 years old!*)
- It was time for Isaac to be married!

God Provided a Wife for Isaac

- Abraham wanted to get a good wife for his son, Isaac.
- Back then parents would help choose the bride for their son

- Abraham wanted a wife from his father's family back home. He didn't want a wife from the country they were living in at the time... because they didn't worship God.
- Abraham sent his faithful servant back to his father's homeland to find a wife for Isaac. **“And that is where the fun, camel part comes in!”** *(The children may ask, “What camels?”... Tell them “Wait just a minute and I'll tell you! ☺)*

NOTE: Move to a different part of the room, if possible. Maybe take a little break. Gather the children around you. Maybe put on a special Storyteller's hat, if you like. Get comfy... You are going to tell a really great Bible Story!

The Story of How Abraham's Servant Found Rebekah

The Servant is Sent to Find a Wife for Isaac

- Abraham told his best servant to go and find a wife for Isaac
- But... Abraham didn't want just ANY old bride for Isaac. He wanted a bride from his father's family back home
- It was a LONG way there, and Abraham was too old to make the journey himself. So, that's why he sent his servant.
- The servant knew that he had to go a long way, through the desert and over hills to get back to Abraham's father's home.
- And he knew that he had to carry a lot of stuff with him: Presents and things like that... because it's just bad manners to show up at the bride's house empty-handed!
- So...*(here's the fun, camel part)*... the servant took with him 10 camels loaded down with fun things to eat and fun things to wear. Everyone hold up 10 fingers! **[Count to 10 together.]**
- Imagine 10 camels all in a row! *[Pretend your fingers are the camels and that they are traveling in a line along the road. Move your hands up and down like the camels trudging along.]*
- Trudge, Trudge, Trudge... Back to Abraham's father's home.
- While he was on his way there the servant began to worry about how he would know the right girl to choose as a bride for Isaac.
 - How would you pick a bride for someone else? *(Wait for a few answers – prettiest, smartest, nicest, richest?)*
 - How was the servant going to do it?
 - Which one would he pick?
 - Well... let's wait and see...

The Servant Asks for a Sign from God

- Finally the servant arrived at the place where Abraham's family lived. He and the 10 camels stopped at the well nearby.
- It was the time of day that the young girls came to the well to get water for their families.

- And now the servant did something really smart!
- He PRAYED!
- He asked God for a special sign/ something that would happen so that he would know which girl to pick for Isaac's bride.
- The servant prayed because he knew that God cares about all the Big and Little things in our lives.
- He knew that God cared about who Isaac had for a wife (and that He had the right girl picked out!) The trick was finding her!
- The servant asked God for this sign: He asked that the girl God wanted for Isaac would give him a drink of water, and that THEN she would offer to water ALL of his camels too!
- Wow! That's a great sign! How many camels did he have with him? (Ten!) *[Everyone count to 10 on your fingers.]*
- That's a LOT of camels! Let's see what happened...

God Gives the Servant a Sign

- A girl named Rebekah came to the well. She came to get water
- The servant asked her for a drink of water.
- She gave him a drink and THEN... she offered to draw water for all of his camels to have a drink as well.
- Wow! That was the sign, wasn't it?
- The servant watched as Rebekah went back and forth to the well, drawing all of the water that the camels would drink.
- How many camels were there? (Ten!) Ten, hot, thirsty camels!
- Do you know how much a camel can drink? Guess! Let's see who gets the closest. *(The answer is 20-40 gallons each!)*
- Twenty gallons each! Ten camels... at twenty gallons each... that's like a million gallons! Actually it's just 200 gallons. But that is a LOT of water! Especially when you are drawing it up out of the well for the camels to drink.
- The servant sat and watched. When the camels had had all of the water they would drink, the servant knew this was the girl!
- The servant praised God! He was happy because God had given him the sign he had asked for.
- Now he knew Rebekah was the girl God wanted for Isaac.

The Servant Returns with Rebekah

- The servant found out that Rebekah was from Abraham's father's family
- He went to her home, where he explained to her family why he had come and everything about the sign and the camels
- Then he gave presents to Rebekah and her family (these were the presents that the camels had been carrying!)
- Rebekah agreed to return with the servant and to marry Isaac.
- And so she did. *Maybe she rode home on one of those camels!*

- The servant said “...*the LORD has granted success to my journey.*” He said this because he knew that God had answered his prayer and shown him a sign. Rebekah was the one!
- When they arrived home at Abraham’s house, Isaac took Rebekah as his bride. He loved her very much. She was just the right one!

THE END

Epilogue and Discussion

- Do you think that God cares about the BIG things in our lives? (Yes, He does!)
- Do you think that God can take care of all the LITTLE things in our lives? (Yes, He can!)
- God does care about us!
- He cares about all of the BIG things and about all of the LITTLE things.
- In this story, God took care of Isaac, of Rebekah, of Abraham, and of the servant! He watched over all of them and answered their prayers.
- God is so good to care about us and the Big and Little things in our lives.

Let’s pray and thank God for caring about us!

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you care about us!
Thank you that you care about the BIG things in our lives.
Thank you for taking care of the LITTLE things in our lives.
Thank you for loving us!
We love you back!
Amen.

Suggested Activities: *(Choose 1 or 2 that will work with your group.)*

Isaac and Rebekah 4-Ever – *The children will make a valentine for Isaac & Rebekah.*

Before Class: Provide a copy of the valentine activity sheet for each child in class. Also provide colors, markers, or glitter glue. Optional: scissors, glue and paper doilies.

During Class: Give each child an activity sheet. Read what it says in the heart out loud. Allow the children to decorate the heart and the words. (Color letters, outline heart, color heart, or use glitter glue to outline heart and letters.) Allow to dry and take home.

OPTION: After decorating the heart, allow the children to cut out the heart and glue it on to a paper doily. Older children may want to create their own valentine’s for others.

Review Timeline – *The children will review the Timeline in the classroom.*

With the children, briefly review the Timeline in class. Add a paper for today’s lesson.

Camel Fun! – *The children will draw their own camel!*

Before Class: Obtain a picture of a camel to show the children. Provide crayons, markers and paper. Consider using light brown construction paper.

During Class: Discuss that the servant took 10 camels with him. Look at the picture of a camel. Discuss how the camel looks. How many humps does it have on its back? How long is its neck? Does it have legs and a tail? ...etc. Now ask the children to draw their own camel! Allow the children to refer back to the picture of the camel if they like. *(Note: Don't be too fussy about how many humps the camel has, or how many legs ☺... Be encouraging!)* Display the herd of camels in class. How many do you have?

Consider decorating your camel with a colorful harness: See next activity.

Braid a Camel Harness – *The children will learn to braid yarn or twine.*

Before Class: Obtain brown twine or yarn. You may consider using different colors of yarn or string. Also provide scissors, tape, and glue. For younger children cut 3 pieces of twine or yarn about 4-6 inches long and tie them together at one end.

During Class: Explain that camels often have fancy harnesses made of beautiful ropes and braided leather. Offer to help the children learn to braid some yarn, or twine, to make a camel's harness. Have each child cut three pieces of twine or yarn about 4-6 inches long and tie them together at one end. Tape the yarn or twine to the desk at the knot. Braid the three pieces together until you get to the end. Do it again, or tie off. *(Could use to decorate the camels they drew in **Camel Fun!**)*

Pin the Tail on the Camel – *A version of Pin the Tail on the Donkey*

Before Class: On a large sheet of brown colored paper, draw a side view of a camel. *(A brown paper sack cut open and laid out flat makes great brown paper!)* Cut out or decorate as desired, but do not include a tail on your picture of the camel. Cut 3 lengths of twine (about 10-12 inches long), tie together at one end. Braid the length of the twine and tie again forming a "tail". Put a large ball of "Sticky Tack" at one end of the tail. You will also need a blindfold, and a way of securing the camel to the wall or door.

During Class: Explain to the children that unfortunately one of the camels has lost his tail. (Oops!) You are going to try and pin it back on. Demonstrate where the camel's tail should go. Blindfold a volunteer. Allow the child to try and place the tail on the camel in the appropriate place. Play until everyone has had a turn. Who was closest?

How Much is a Gallon? – *The children will explore how much water is in a gallon.*

NOTE: There are lots of ways of presenting this activity. Take into consideration if you will let the children work with the water, or if you will have it already sealed in jugs.

Before Class: Provide clean gallon containers with lids. (Milk jugs work great!) Also provide cups, measuring cups, or pitchers. Have access to water, whether in a sink or in large pans. May want to fill gallon containers with water and seal them ahead of time. You could use duct tape to help close them. Have plenty of towels ready for clean-up!

During Class: Help the children discover just how much a gallon of water is. With cups/measuring cups or pitchers, fill a gallon container with water. Take turns pouring the water in and out. Carefully lift the sealed containers. How heavy is a gallon?



Isaac +

Rebekah

4-Ever!