

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 3 – Lesson 4
Isaac Marries Rebekah (Genesis 24)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. Conjugal love is from the Lord and can be given only to those who approach Him, love the truths of the Church, and do its goods.
- B. The Lord's Divine Providence governs all things.
- C. One of the internal causes of cold in a marriage is that one partner is of one religion and the other partner of another. (CL 242)

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

- 1. Last week we learned about the time Abraham nearly sacrificed his beloved son, Isaac, as a burnt offering to the Lord. He thought this was the best way to thank the Lord for giving him the son he and Sarah had wanted so much. But was that really what the Lord wanted him to do? (No)
- 2. What was the happy ending to the story? (The Lord sent a ram for Abraham to sacrifice in Isaac's place)
- 3. Isaac's mother, Sarah, lived to be 127 years old, and then she died. After she was buried, Abraham, who was very, very old by then, decided it was time to find a wife for Isaac. How he found a wife for his son is our story for today.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. The whole of Genesis 24 is pertinent, but it is too long a chapter for young children to listen to all at once. *The Sower* has a good summary of the whole chapter that you might find useful. We suggest the teacher read the following sections aloud to the children and just summarize the material between the sections in order to shorten the reading and thereby keep the children's attention.
 - a. Read Gen. 24:1-20 (Summarize Gen. 24:21-33)
 - b. Read Gen. 24:34-40 (Summarize Gen. 24:41-49)
 - c. Read Gen. 24:50-53 (Skip verses 54-60 altogether)
 - d. Read Gen. 24:61-67

C. Ideas to Discuss

- 1. Whom did Abraham send to find a wife for his son, Isaac? (His oldest servant) What did he make the servant promise before he left? (That he wouldn't take a wife for Isaac from among the Canaanites, but that the servant would go back to the country Abraham came from to find the wife.)

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2. When Abraham's servant got to the city of Nahor (named after Abraham's own brother, Nahor), he prayed to the Lord and asked for a sign from Him so he would know he had found the right young woman for Isaac. What was the sign he asked for? (He would say to a young woman, "Please let down your pitcher that I may drink," and she would do it and would also offer to give his camels a drink.)
3. What young woman did the Lord show him was to be Isaac's wife? (Rebekah)
4. Was Abraham's servant treated well by Rebekah's family? (Yes)
5. After the servant explained to her family the reason for his journey, were Rebekah's mother and brother willing to let her go with him? (Yes) Why were they willing? (They believed this was what the Lord wanted)
6. When they asked Rebekah, "Will you go with this man?" what was her answer? ("I will go.")
7. Where was Isaac when he first saw Rebekah? (In a field)
8. What was he doing there? (Meditating, or thinking)
9. Was Isaac satisfied with the wife the servant had brought him? (Yes; he loved her.)

D. Further Ideas: A Wife of the Same Religion

1. Most of the other people in the land of Canaan were Canaanites who worshiped idols. Do you know what idols are? They are usually pictures or statues that people worship as though they are God.
2. Abraham worshiped the Lord and wanted his son to have a wife who worshiped the Lord too because he knew that religion is the most important thing in a person's life. He also knew that if Isaac married a woman of a different religion, it would be likely to lead to arguments and unhappiness between Isaac and his wife. And it might cause Isaac to forget about following the Lord.
3. More than anything else in the world, Abraham believed that following the Lord was important. So he sent his oldest servant back to his own relatives, who were worshipers of the Lord, to find a wife for his son, a wife who would worship the Lord as Isaac did.
4. This idea is not old fashioned or just for people who lived in ancient times. It is still true today. If we marry someone who believes the same things about the Lord that we do, we can have a happy marriage, one that the Lord can bless with a special marriage love called conjugal love. Conjugal love is one of the Lord's many blessings for us when we try to do His will and follow Him, as Abraham did and Isaac after him.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "I pray thee, Lord, to guide my ways," Hymnal #169.

B. Activities

1. Maps of Holy Land: Point out Abraham's original journey from Ur, to Haran (also called the city of Nahor), to Shechem, to Bethel, and finally to Hebron where he settled, and where Isaac lived. Show the children that Abraham's servant was sent from Hebron back to Haran to find a wife for Isaac.

C. Project: Sprinkle Collage

1. Provide each child with a photocopied simple line drawing of Rebekah at the well, preferably on slightly stiff paper; the servant could be included along with a water pitcher and at least one camel. Details are not necessary. Or, have a few templates available so children can trace around the figures to create their own pictures. An outline is all that is needed.
2. If you're using more than one color of sand or aquarium stone, spread glue fairly generously inside any figures that you plan to have be the same color; fingers work fine, but you could provide Q-tips for the squeamish.
3. If you're using a single color of sand or stone, you could put glue in all the outlines at the same time.
4. Sprinkle colored sand or aquarium stones (very small) generously onto the gluey figure(s); gently shake off excess. (Then spread glue inside the next figure, which will be a different color, if more than one color is used.)
5. Label picture: "A Wife for Isaac" or "Rebekah at the Well."

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Pictures to illustrate the story.
- B. Map of Holy Land
- C. Perhaps bracelets of gold, jewelry of silver & gold, and beautiful clothing of luxurious quality to give children an idea of the wonderful gifts the servant gave to Rebekah (Gen. 24:53).

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. The Sower, Vol. I, "Rebekah at the Well," (Genesis 24), pp. 108-110.
- B. Dole's Bible Study Notes, Vol. I, "Isaac and Rebekah," (Genesis 24), pp. 290-303 (especially Primary and Junior levels).