

A Wife for Isaac

Genesis 24; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 171-176

Have you ever been on a long journey? What did you take? How did you manage for food? When Abraham sent his servant on a long journey, his servant took 10 camels to carry everything he needed.

Eliezer woke with a start. The sky was still black. But it was time to go. He had an important job to do.

Abraham appeared out of the darkness. He smiled at his old and faithful servant. "The Lord will send His angel ahead of you, my friend," he said. "God will see to it that you find just the woman He has picked for Isaac's bride. She will be a woman from my homeland—from my relatives. We cannot let Isaac marry one of the heathen women who live here. He must not marry a Canaanite."

Eliezer thought about his mission as he traveled day after dusty day. Abraham was so sure that the Lord's angel would be traveling ahead of him. He would meet many strangers. Just how would he find the right woman? Which would be the woman the Lord had picked?

Finally, Eliezer arrived at the city of Nahor where Abraham's relatives lived. It was almost evening. He was tired of traveling, and he was thirsty. So were the camels.

Suddenly, Eliezer had an idea! He raised his head toward heaven and prayed. "Lord, God of my master Abraham, give me success today. Keep Your promise to my master. I am here at the village well. The young women of the city will soon be coming for water. I will say to one, 'Please lower your jar and let me have a drink.'



The Message

God wants everyone to join His family.

Memory Verse

“ ‘The Lord . . . will send his angel with you and make your journey a success’ ”
(Genesis 24:40, NIV).

If she says, ‘Drink, and I will also bring water for your camels,’ may she be the one You have chosen for Your servant Isaac.”

Before Eliezer had even finished praying, a beautiful young girl appeared. She came to the well and filled her water jar. *Could this be the one?* Eliezer wondered. He ran to meet her. “Please give me a drink of water from your jar,” he asked.

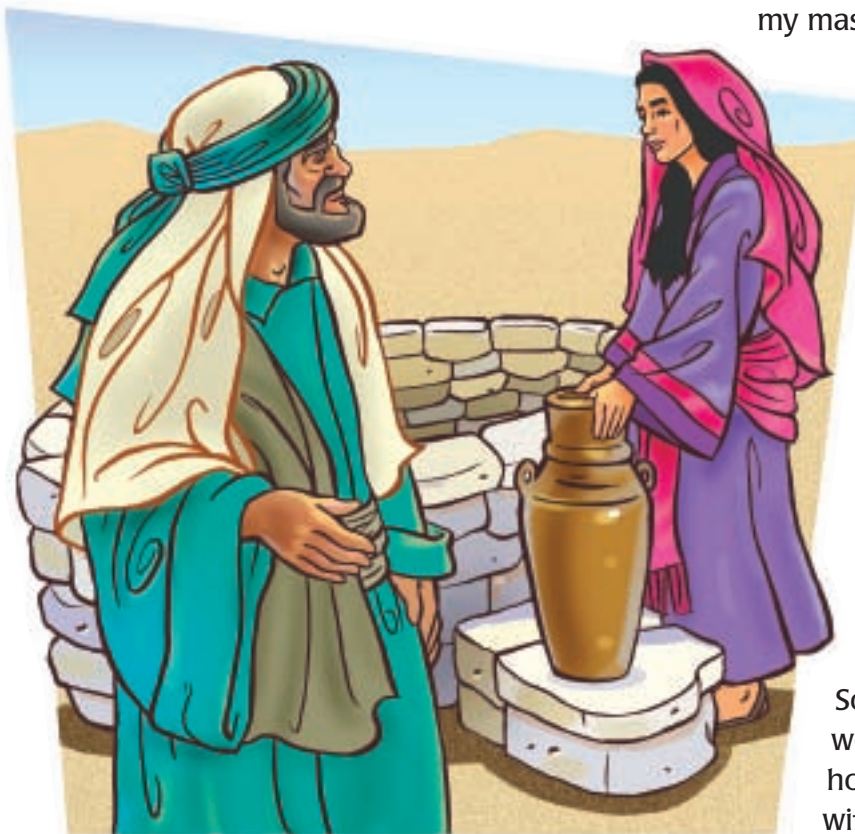
The girl, Rebekah, quickly lowered the jar from her shoulder. She offered it to Eliezer and he drank his fill. Then she said the very words Eliezer had prayed for! “I will also bring water for your camels.” Rebekah emptied her jar into the animals’ drinking trough. Then she hurried to the well for more water.

Eliezer smiled joyfully. God had answered his prayer so quickly! And the girl was so friendly, and so kind!

When Rebekah returned, Eliezer said to her, “Please tell me who your father is.” And when she told him, Eliezer knelt down and worshiped God. “Praise the Lord, the God of my master Abraham. He has faithfully kept His promise to my master. The Lord has led me straight to my master’s relatives!”

Rebekah went home and told her brother Laban about this servant of Abraham. Laban immediately went to the well and invited Eliezer to their home. Eliezer told them about his mission from Abraham. He told about his prayer and how God had answered it so quickly. Would Rebekah agree to Abraham’s request?

Rebekah had listened carefully to Eliezer. She heard how God had led Eliezer to her family. She believed God was leading in this. So she agreed to go with Eliezer. She would leave her family and her homeland. She would become Isaac’s wife.



S A B B A T H

DO If possible, spend some time with other members of God's family this afternoon. Talk about your lesson story and how Abraham's family stayed together even though they lived away from one another.

SING Sing "The Family of God" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 139) before prayer. Then thank God for other members of His family.

M O N D A Y

READ Read and discuss Genesis 24:11-27 for worship today. Describe Eliezer's prayers. What were the results? Ask your family to tell about a time God answered their prayers. Thank God that He hears and will answer your prayers.

THINK Camels drink five gallons of water a day. Eliezer had 10 camels. How much water would Rebekah have to take from the well to water the camels for one day? Fill and lift a gallon container. How do you think Rebekah felt when she was watering the camels?

W E D N E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Genesis 24:41-58 with your family. What did Eliezer give to Rebekah? How do you think Rebekah felt about leaving for a new country? About marrying a stranger? Why did she agree to do this?

ASK If possible, talk with someone from another country. Ask them how people in that country worship God.

PRAY Pray for people around the world who may not be able to worship freely.

S U N D A Y

READ With your family read and discuss Genesis 24:1-10. Why didn't Abraham want Isaac to marry a local girl? How many camels did Eliezer take with him? Why?

DRAW Draw a camel and write your memory verse on it. Put it where you will see it every day. Teach the verse to your family.

DO Find out five camel facts and share them with your family at worship.

PRAY Ask God to protect people who are traveling.

T U E S D A Y

READ During worship read and discuss Genesis 24:28-40. What kind of person was Rebekah? How can you be like Rebekah today?

DO Just for fun, use cardboard or an old box and make a model well. Where do you get your water today? How is that like or different from Rebekah's time?

SING Sing some praise songs, then thank God for the life-giving gift of water.

Abraham loved and trusted Eliezer. In fact, he almost adopted Eliezer, but God had planned for Isaac to be Abraham's heir.



THURSDAY

READ Read Mark 3:33-35 during family worship. Who belongs to God's family?

DO Hold a mirror so family members can see themselves. Ask them to say, "I belong to God." Together, talk about what that means. Sing about belonging to Jesus or God. Then thank God that you belong to Him.

THINK Camels can travel 100 miles a day at a speed of 10 miles per hour. How many hours would it take them to go 100 miles? How long would it take you to walk 100 miles?

FRIDAY

READ Reread Genesis 24:10-26 during family worship. With your family, act out the story.

DO Rebekah and Isaac had never met. They lived a long way from each other. Name some of your relatives who live far away. Pray for each one.

MAKE Make and send a card to tell someone that you are glad that they are part of God's family.

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PUZZLE

Directions: All of the young women below look alike, yet one is different. Help Eliezer find the one that stands out from the crowd.

