

# Isaac's Marriage to Rebekah

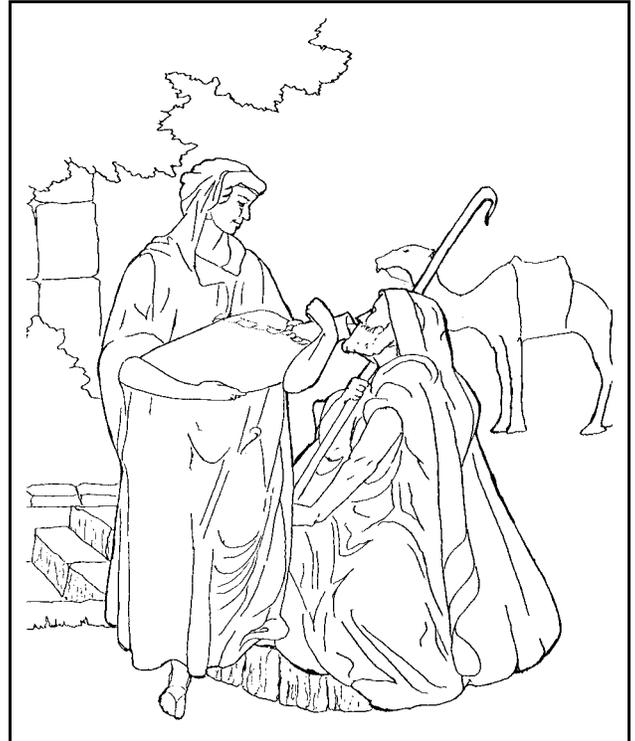
Genesis 24

Does this look to you like any kind of courtship, engagement, or betrothal?

Can you see anything in this picture that suggests these people are receiving the Lord's help?

## Prayer

LORD God, Please help us as we study Your Word today. Help us learn from Abraham and his servant how we also should trust You to guide us in all our ways. Amen.



## The Story - Genesis 24

Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. {2} So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh, {3} "and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; {4} "but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

{5} And the servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I take your son back to the land from which you came?"

{6} But Abraham said to him, "Beware that you do not take my son back

there. {7} "The LORD God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my family, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land,' He will send His angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. {8} "And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be released from this oath; only do not take my son back there." {9} So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter.

{10} Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, for all his master's goods were in his hand. And he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. {11} And he made his camels kneel down outside the city by a well of



water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water. {12} Then he said, "O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham. {13}

"Behold, here I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. {14} "Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink'; let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master."

{15} And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder. {16} Now the young woman was very beautiful to behold, a virgin; no man had known her. And she went down to the well, filled her pitcher, and came up. {17} And the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher."

{18} So she said, "Drink, my lord." Then she quickly let her pitcher down to her hand, and gave him a drink. {19} And when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking." {20} Then she quickly emptied her pitcher into the trough, ran back to the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels. {21} And the man, wondering at her, remained silent so as to know whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not.

{22} So it was, when the camels had finished drinking, that the man took a golden nose ring weighing half a shekel, and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels of gold, {23} and said, "Whose daughter are you? Tell me, please, is there room in your father's house for us to lodge?" {24} So she said to him, "I am the

daughter of Bethuel, Milcah's son, whom she bore to Nahor." {25} Moreover she said to him, "We have both straw and feed enough, and room to lodge."

{26} Then the man bowed down his head and worshiped the LORD. {27} And he said, "Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren." {28} So the young woman ran and told her mother's household these things.

{29} Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban, and Laban ran out to the man by the well. {30} So it came to pass, when he saw the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard the words of his sister Rebekah, saying, "Thus the man spoke to me," that he went to the man. And there he stood by the camels at the well. {31} And he said, "Come in, O blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels."

{32} Then the man came to the house. And he unloaded the camels, and provided straw and feed for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. {33} Food was set before him to eat, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told about my errand." And he said, "Speak on."

{34} So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. {35} "The LORD has blessed my master greatly, and he has become great; and He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys. {36} "And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and to him he has given all that he has. {37} "Now my master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell; {38} 'but you shall go to my father's house and to my family, and take a wife for my son.' {39}

"And I said to my master, 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me.' {40} "But he said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I walk, will send His angel with you and prosper your way; and you shall take a wife for my son from my family and from my father's house. {41} 'You will be clear from this oath when you arrive among my family; for if they will not give her to you, then you will be released from my oath.'

{42} "And this day I came to the well and said, 'O LORD God of my master Abraham, if You will now prosper the way in which I go, {43} 'behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass that when the virgin comes out to draw water, and I say to her, "Please give me a little water from your pitcher to drink," {44} 'and she says to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also,"; let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

{45} "But before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah, coming out with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down to the well and drew water. And I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' {46} "And she made haste and let her pitcher down from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will give your camels a drink also.' So I drank, and she gave the camels a drink also. {47} "Then I asked her, and said, 'Whose daughter are you?' And she said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the nose ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists. {48} "And I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, who had led me in the way of truth to take the daughter of my master's brother for his son. {49} "Now if you will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me. And if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left."

{50} Then Laban and Bethuel

answered and said, "The thing comes from the LORD; we cannot speak to you either bad or good. {51} "Here is Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be your master's son's wife, as the LORD has spoken."

{52} And it came to pass, when Abraham's servant heard their words, that he worshiped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth. {53} Then the servant brought out jewelry of silver, jewelry of gold, and clothing, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother.

{54} And he and the men who were with him ate and drank and stayed all night. Then they arose in the morning, and he said, "Send me away to my master."

{55} But her brother and her mother said, "Let the young woman stay with us a few days, at least ten; after that she may go."

{56} And he said to them, "Do not hinder me, since the LORD has prospered my way; send me away so that I may go to my master."

{57} So they said, "We will call the young woman and ask her personally." {58} Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go."

{59} So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men. {60} And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: "Our sister, may you become The mother of thousands of ten thousands; And may your descendants possess The gates of those who hate them."

{61} Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.

{62} Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi, for he dwelt in the South. {63} And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes



## What the Bible Tells Us - Discuss the following.

1. Why was it so important that the servant find a wife for Isaac from Abraham's own family?
2. What was the only quality that Isaac's wife needed in order to become his wife?
3. When the time comes in your life, why will it be so important that you choose someone to marry who believes in God as you do?

**Your Turn** - In the list below put an X in the box next to the words that show the most important qualities you should look for in a friend.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A sense of humor                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Wants to obey parents and superiors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honesty                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Wants to obey God's Word            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Believes in Jesus as Savior from sins | <input type="checkbox"/> Likes sports                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good looks                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Likes to go shopping                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thoughtfulness                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Believes in a god                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intelligent                           |  |

What are some reasons why it is important that the friends you choose believe in God as you do?

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**Inner Aim** In order to carry forward the family tree of the Seed/Savior, the LORD joined Isaac with Rebekah.

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**Passages** - Discuss together how these passages apply to the Inner Aim above.

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

Psalms 103:1-4 Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies.

Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD.

**Hymn** - TLH #625 v.1, 2, 5

Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall,  
Where Jesus Christ is all in all!  
Yea, if He were not dwelling there,  
How dark and poor and void it were!

Oh, blest that house where faith ye find  
And all within have set their mind  
To trust their God and serve Him still  
And do in all His holy will!

Then here will I and mine today  
A solemn covenant make and say:  
Though all the world forsake Thy Word,  
I and my house will serve the Lord.

## Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

We want to thank You for making us Your children through faith in Jesus. We know that even as Your children our pathway to heaven will not always be easy. We know that we need You to keep us on the right path. Please guide us in all we say and do. Please give us Christian friends to cheer us while we live, and one day bring us all safely home to You in heaven through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.