

## Lesson 39

# **A Bride for Isaac**

God led Abraham's servant to Rebekah, who became Isaac's wife.

# Studying God's Word

## Introduction

Last time, we read about Abraham's test.

### Slide #3

Show Lesson 38 Theme Poster. What did God ask Abraham to do? Sacrifice his son Isaac.

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Even though Isaac was the son God promised him, Abraham obeyed and took Isaac to Mount Moriah. He brought wood, a knife, and fire. But Isaac noticed something important was missing for their sacrifice.

What was missing? A lamb.

Yes. They didn't bring a lamb for an offering because Isaac was supposed to be the offering. This was a hard test for Abraham, but we learned that Abraham believed God would provide an offering somehow. He had faith that God could even bring Isaac back from the dead, if necessary.

So what happened next? Abraham built the altar, then what? Abraham placed Isaac on the altar and prepared to kill him as a sacrifice. But God stopped him just in time!

Did Abraham pass the test? Did he trust God? Yes!

Abraham passed the test because he was willing to obey God even though he loved his son very much.

What was the sacrifice God provided as a substitute for Isaac? A ram. Right. God provided the ram for Abraham to sacrifice in place of his son. This gave us a picture of the final sacrifice God would provide for sinners. Who was that? Jesus.

### Slide #4

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. In our lesson today, Isaac had grown up and was 40 years old. Remember, God had promised that Abraham would be the father of many nations and have many descendants. But Isaac had no children. He didn't even have a wife! So it was time for Isaac to get married, but the Canaanite women who lived nearby didn't know God at all. So Abraham wanted Isaac's wife to be a relative—someone from his family who lived in the country where Abraham came from.

## The Servant's Journey

Pass out the Class Notes and the Bride for Isaac Skits.

Pass out the Bride for Isaac Skits. Genesis 24 tells us how Abraham's servant found a wife for Isaac. Today we will be reading a skit that tells us what

happened in Genesis 24.

## Scene 1

Let's begin with Scene 1, which is a conversation between Abraham and his faithful servant. Who will read our first scene? Assign readers.

Let's stop here for a few moments and ask some questions.

### Slide #5

Show the Map of Canaan and Mesopotamia. A while ago, we read how God called Abraham to move from his home and his relatives and go to Canaan. So Abraham moved from Haran, but his relatives stayed there. So that's where Abraham's servant was headed—500 miles away!

Look back at your script. What was the servant worried about in Scene 1? The woman may not be willing to go to Canaan with him.

He wanted to know what to do if she wouldn't come with him. He asked Abraham if he should take Isaac to Haran if that happened. What was Abraham's answer? Don't take my son back there.

Why didn't Abraham want his son to return to the cities where his relatives lived? Here's a hint, what did God promise to give Abraham's descendants? The land of Canaan.

That's right. God said that Abraham's descendants would have the land of Canaan to live in. So Isaac needed to stay there in Canaan.

Notice that Abraham was sure God would provide a wife for Isaac. Who did Abraham say would go before his servant so he would succeed? The angel of the Lord.

Yes. Abraham believed God. He trusted that God would keep his promises and provide a wife for Isaac so they could start a family and have many descendants.

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. Abraham also understood something very important about God. God is sovereign. Will someone read what that means from the Attributes of God Poster? Assign a reader. God is sovereign—in complete control of everything; God does all that he pleases.

## **The Servant's Prayer Is Answered**

So Abraham sent his servant back to his relatives who lived 500 miles away to find a woman—chosen by God—to be Isaac's wife.

## Scene 2

Let's read Scene 2 to see what happened next. Assign readers.

Where did this take place? Look at the top of Scene 2. The well outside the city of Haran.

Did you know that the ancient city of Haran still exists today? Haran is also called the city of Nahor (like how Bethlehem is called the city of David). Nahor was the name of Abraham's grandfather and brother. This confirms that this was the land of Abraham's family.

Abraham's servant had to make a long trip. After traveling 500 miles, he finally made his 10 camels stop and kneel down to rest at the well outside the city. Then what did he do? He began to pray.

He gave a pretty specific prayer, didn't he? What did he pray for first? He prayed for success and kindness to his master.

Yes. He knew this was very important and meant a lot to his master Abraham, so he really wanted to be successful in finding the right bride for Isaac.

And what did he pray about the woman? What would she do? He prayed that the woman who offered to water his camels when he asked for a drink would be the one God had chosen for Isaac.

He prayed that he would meet a young woman at the well. And when he asked her for a drink, she would say, "Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink." The young woman who said those very words would be the woman he was looking for! This shows that the servant really trusted that God was in charge of everything—who would be at the well on this day at this time, what she would say, and what she would do.

The servant's request is interesting because most women would probably not want to take the time to water 10 camels, especially for a stranger! She would have to carry her pitcher to the well, get the water, and then go and pour it into the trough so the camels could drink. Now, camels can drink a lot of water—20 gallons in just 10 minutes. Wow! So if they were really thirsty camels, she would have a big job to do!

Abraham's servant believed that God was sovereign. He believed God had a plan and already had a special woman chosen for Isaac. The servant didn't know who the right woman was, but he trusted that God knew, so he asked God to make it clear to him exactly who she was by what she would do.

The next part is amazing! The servant was at the well praying that just the right woman would come. And guess what? The beautiful Rebekah arrived at the well before the servant even finished his prayer!

This was wonderful! She offered him a drink, but did she also water his 10 camels? Yes!

Yes, she did! Rebekah did exactly what the servant had prayed for! This was no accident; God arranged it all.

Next, the servant had to find out if she was related to Abraham, so he asked about her parents. Who was Rebekah's dad? Bethuel.

Who was Rebekah's grandpa? Nahor.

And guess who Nahor's brother was. Allow guesses. Abraham.

If you guessed Abraham, you're right! These people were Abraham's relatives—exactly who the servant was looking for. What did the servant say when he found out God had led him directly to the place he needed to go? Blessed be the Lord. He praised God, didn't he? Why do you think he responded that way? Allow answers.

He probably felt so happy and thankful for God's sovereignty and faithfulness. God didn't let him down. He was in complete control of everything that happened. God guided Abraham's servant 500 miles to the right town to talk to the right woman, who did the right things just like he prayed she would do—and who even belonged to the right family!

#### Slide #6

It's time to look at the Class Notes. We have a matching game today. We'll read the sentences on the left, then find the right answer and draw a line to it on the right.

Who wants to help us with the first one? Assign a reader. Prayer. Complete #1.

And how about #2? What did Rebekah offer to do? Assign a reader. Camels. Complete #2.

### **The Family Makes a Decision**

Set those aside now so we can move on. The Bible tells us that Rebekah's brother, Laban, invited Abraham's servant home for dinner. The family welcomed the servant and all those with him. The servant was anxious to tell his story. And after telling Rebekah's family all that had happened at the well, he waited to see what they would say.

#### Scene 3

Let's read Scene 3 now. There are four parts. Assign readers.

Would they allow Rebekah to leave home to become Isaac's wife? The servant was eager to hear the family's answer.

What did they tell him? This is the Lord's doing, you can take Rebekah to be Isaac's wife.

Rebekah's father could see that it was God who had directed everything that had happened, so he agreed to let Rebekah go.

What did the servant do as soon as he heard their answer? He praised the Lord.

Yes! He praised and worshipped God because he was so thankful that God guided him to Rebekah and that she would come with him.

The servant gave gifts to Rebekah and her family and told them he wanted to leave right away. But as we read in the skit, Rebekah's family wanted her to stay a bit longer.

What did Rebekah say when they asked if she was willing to leave so soon? She said she would go.

This would have been a hard decision for Rebekah to leave her home and family. She would be traveling so far away that she probably would never see them again. But even though her family felt like they weren't quite ready to let her go, they said goodbye and sent Rebekah on her way with a blessing.

#### Slide #7

Let's look at the Class Notes again. Who will read #3? Who did Rebekah agree to marry? Assign a reader. Isaac. Complete #3.

And in #4, how did the servant respond when God worked everything out perfectly? What did he do? Assign a reader. Worshipped. Complete #4.

What was Rebekah willing to give up to go with the servant? Who will read #5? Assign a reader. Rebekah. Complete #5.

### **The Bride Meets the Groom**

We'll go back to our Bibles now and read the happy ending!

Genesis 24:63–67

#### Slide #8

#### Slide #9

#### Slide #10

Will someone read Genesis 24:63–67? Assign readers.

Who is mentioned in verse 63? Isaac.

That's right. Isaac, the groom. He's the man who is getting married.

Where was Isaac when Rebekah arrived? Genesis 24:63. In the field.

That's right. Isaac was out in the field, and when he looked up, he saw all the camels coming toward him. They were home! And they brought someone special.

How did Isaac feel about Rebekah? Look at the last verse. He loved her and made her his wife.

Refer to the Genesis Timeline. This is a true love story. God provided a specially chosen bride for Isaac. Rebekah was invited to leave her old life behind and belong to Isaac, a man who would carry on the special promises that God made to his father Abraham.

#### Slide #11

Let's complete #6 in our Class Notes. Who will read that? Assign a reader. Sovereign. Complete #6.

This account is a perfect example of God's sovereignty. God directed Abraham, the servant, Rebekah, and her father and brother in such a way that his plan would be fulfilled. God is sovereign—he is in complete control of everything, so he can be trusted to work all things together for good for

those who belong to him. And just like Abraham's servant, we can trust God to lead us, too.

## **Application**

### Slide #12

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. God had promised Abraham that he would make a great nation from the descendants of Isaac. Although it seemed like a hard job for Abraham's servant to travel 500 miles, find just the right woman in a city full of people, and expect her to leave her family to marry a stranger in another land—it was not too difficult for our sovereign God. He is in complete control of everything. God's plan for Isaac and Rebekah was perfect, and his plans for us are perfect, too. Abraham and his servant trusted that God would provide. God's Word showed us again today that God is faithful to keep his promises. He is in control, and we can trust him.

Sometimes things happen that can make us worry. But God's Word tells us we shouldn't worry or get upset. Instead, we can stop to think like Abraham. He remembered what God had already done for him and how God had kept his promises. He remembered what God said. And he knew that God is sovereign.

One thing God has promised to those who belong to him and love him is to work all things together for good. That doesn't mean we get everything we selfishly want, but that God will allow things to happen in our lives that will bring him glory and be good for us, too. We may not understand it all, but we can trust that God knows what he's doing.

When we trust and obey the Lord, we can stop worrying and believe that God will work out a good plan in our lives. If, on the other hand, you have been trying to ignore or fight against God, or just keep trying to do things your own way, ask God today to change you and help you trust him.

## **Lesson Review**

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

## **Board Game**

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

## **Materials**

- Review Questions
- Game Board (provided in the Teacher Kit)
- Dice, numbered cards, or spinner
- Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the Finish wins.

## Box Toss

Students will answer review questions then toss the beanbag at the holes in the box to gain points for their team.

## Materials

- Review Questions
- Medium-sized cardboard box
- Scissors or knife
- Four beanbags
- Masking tape

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use scissors or a knife to cut two or three holes in the bottom of the box. Make sure they are large enough for a beanbag to easily pass through. Label each hole with a point number: 5, 10, and 15. Use masking tape to make a tossing line several feet away from the box.

Divide the class into teams. Have the teams line up behind the line across from the box. Give each team two beanbags. Alternate asking each team a review question. Students who answer correctly will toss the beanbags at the target holes in the box to earn points for their team. If they answer incorrectly, they may toss the beanbags for fun without the points counting. Students will go to the end of the line after tossing the beanbags. Keep score for both teams. Continue play until all questions have been answered correctly and students have all had a chance to toss the beanbags.

## Draw Dice

Teams will answer questions and complete a simple drawing to win. Who will finish their drawing first?

## Materials



## Review Questions

One drawing area for each team (paper, white board, etc.)

Pencils or white board markers

One die

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a sheet of paper and a pencil, or divide the white board in half. Draw a mouse on the board as an example.

Ask the first team a question from the lesson. If they answer correctly, have them roll the die.

To begin drawing their mouse, each team must wait until they get a six. They will then draw the mouse's body on their paper or the board. After they have drawn the body, as they give correct answers to the questions, they can continue to draw the other parts of the mouse according to the numbers they roll.



They can draw according to the numbers below:

6 = body

5 = nose

4 = whiskers

3 = eyes

2 = ears

1 = tail

Continue giving each team a turn to answer a question and roll the die. Repeat the questions as necessary. The first team to finish their mouse wins.

You may choose to draw a simple object from the lesson, such as a crown, an open Bible, a fish, etc. Be sure to assign numbers (as above) to each part of the object to be drawn before the game begins.

# Four in a Row

Students will answer questions and add a marker for their team onto the grid. Which team will be the first to get four in a row?

## Materials

Review Questions  
Masking tape  
Red and black paper circles or other markers for each team

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a 16-section grid on the floor. The grid should be four sections wide by four sections long. Each section should be equal in size. Use eight red circles and eight black circles cut from construction paper or other markers for the two teams.

Divide the students into two teams. Give each team eight markers. They will take turns answering the questions. If they answer correctly, they can put a marker in a square on the grid. The first team to get four markers in a row wins the game.

# Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

## Materials

Review Questions  
Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers  
Rolled up socks  
Masking tape  
Ten sheets of paper  
Markers

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and continue putting the socks

along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

## Oh No

Not every roll of the dice will be good for the team. Answer the question, roll the dice, and be prepared to say, "Oh no!"

### Materials

Review Questions  
Two dice

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams. Each team will take turns answering review questions. When a team answers correctly, have them roll the dice to determine their points. If a team does not answer correctly, give the answer and repeat the question later. Keep track of team scores.

Numbers aren't always a winner! If students roll:

2 or 3 that team gives 5 points away to the other team  
4 or 5 that team takes 5 points from the other team  
6–10 face value  
11 subtract 10 points from the team score  
12 double the team score

(Note: no team can have less than 0 points.)

## Pick a Point

Answer the questions correctly to earn the right to pick a point.

### Materials

Review Questions  
Small paper strips  
Cup or basket

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Write various numbers in increments of 5 or 10 on strips of paper to use as point cards. Put the point cards into the cup or basket. Divide students into teams of 4–5 students each. Have each team take turns answering a review question. After each correct answer, let a member of the team draw a point card from the cup.

The number of points on the cards will vary, so the score will have nothing to do with how skilled one team might be. Keep track of each team's points. If time allows, repeat the questions!

## **Toss for It**

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

### **Materials**

Review Questions

A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and "wild" written on index cards

One beanbag

Masking tape

Two baskets or containers for cards

### **Instructions**

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team's basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team's turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

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