

# Church of God Sunday School

## A WIFE FOR ISAAC

Genesis 23:1 — 25:11

Isaac, the promised son of Abraham and Sarah, was now a grown man, almost 40 years old. Sarah, at the age of 127, died. Abraham mourned for her and buried her in the cave of Machpelah (*mak-PEE-lah*) in the land of Canaan.

As time passed, Isaac still mourned for his mother, and Abraham wanted to see Isaac get married. Abraham didn't want Isaac to marry one of the "daughters of the Canaanites." He knew it was important that Isaac marry a woman who believed in the true God.

Abraham sent for his trusted servant Eliezer (*el-ih-EE-zer*), the steward of his house (Genesis 15:2). Abraham told Eliezer to travel to where Abraham's relatives lived and find a wife for Isaac.

Eliezer took ten camels and "all the goods of his master were in his hand" (for a bride gift) and went to Mesopotamia (*mes-oh-puh-TAY-mee-uh*). This was where Abraham's brother Nahor (*NAY-hor*) lived.

Eliezer stopped at a well outside of the city and made the camels kneel down (to rest). It was evening, the time when the women of the city came to the well for water. (How would Eliezer know which young woman would be the right one for Isaac? He would need God's help.)

Eliezer asked God to let the woman who offered both him and his camels a drink be the one who was meant for Isaac. Before he finished speaking, a beautiful young woman came to the well. When Eliezer asked her for a drink, she gave him a drink. Then, in a direct answer to Eliezer's prayer, she said, "I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking." (Think of how much work it must have been to draw enough water for ten camels.)

Eliezer asked, "Whose daughter art thou?" and "Is

there room in thy father's house for us to lodge in?" The young woman told him she was Rebekah (*rih-BEK-uh*), the granddaughter of Nahor. She also told Eliezer that there was plenty of room. Eliezer bowed his head and thanked the Lord for leading him to his master's brethren.

Rebekah hurried home and told her family of Eliezer. Laban, Rebekah's brother, ran to the well and invited Eliezer to the house. Food was set before Eliezer, but he would not eat until he told Rebekah's family of his errand for Abraham.

Eliezer also told how he had asked God to show him the woman meant for Isaac and how God had answered his prayer. Laban and Bethuel (*beth-oo-ALE*) said that this thing comes "from the LORD."

The men told Eliezer to take Rebekah back with him to be Isaac's wife. When Eliezer heard these words, again he worshiped the Lord, "bowing himself to the earth."

The next morning Eliezer was preparing to return to his master Abraham, when Rebekah's mother and brother asked that she stay at least ten days. When they asked

Rebekah what she wanted to do, she answered, "I will go."

Rebekah, her nurse, and her maidens left with Eliezer and his men. As they approached the field where Isaac had gone to pray, Isaac looked up and saw the approaching camels.

When Rebekah saw Isaac, she asked who he was. When she heard that it was Isaac, she modestly covered herself with a veil. Rebekah became Isaac's wife, and he loved her. "And Isaac was comforted after his mother's death."

Later, Abraham decided to marry a woman named Keturah (*kih-TOO-rah*). He had several more children,



but he gave all that he owned to Isaac. After having lived a full life, Abraham died at the age of 175. His sons, Isaac and Ishmael, buried him beside Sarah in the cave of Machpelah. Thus ended the life of Abraham, "the Friend of God" (James 2:23).

Many verses in the Bible tell us about Abraham's faith in God. Eliezer trusted God to help choose the right wife for Isaac. Where had he learned about God? From his master Abraham. What was this faith? Abraham believed in God and in God's promises, and his actions proved that faith.

Did you know that you can also have faith in God?

"So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham" (Galatians 3:9). When you have something hard to do, remember this story of Eliezer. He asked God for help, and God answered in a wonderful way!

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who . . . led me to the house of my master's brethren."  
—Genesis 24:27*