

REBEKAH CHOSEN FOR ISAAC

Genesis 24

Lesson Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:6 - "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and **He shall direct your paths.**" (Grades 1 & 2 memorize portion printed in **bold.**)

Lesson Aim: To teach the children how God guides us so that they will know how to be led of God.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): God guides the birds. Have you ever watched the birds fly south? When do they fly south? (In the fall before it gets cold in the north.) How do they know when they should fly south? (God tells them.) Did you notice that not all birds fly south? Some stay in the north for the winter where they live in cold weather.

God guides the animals. He helps them find food. How does He help some animals find food? (He has given them noses that have a keen sense of smell.) Have you ever seen a dog sniff on the ground as he is walking? He trusts the nose that God gave to him to lead him to some food.

God also guides the fish. Salmon, for instance, are born in fresh water lakes. When they are about a year old, God puts a strong desire in them to leave their familiar home in the lakes and swim the river to the big ocean. Once they get to the ocean, they swim far away from that river to live in the ocean and make this their new home for many years. Then God suddenly guides them to return back to their birthplace. It seems that most of them return to the same river that took them to the ocean when they were young. Then they swim up the river to the lake where they were born. This is amazing, but He Who guides the salmon, the animals and the birds, also wants to guide us.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse in Proverbs 3:6 says, "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." How do you acknowledge the Lord? First of all, let us find out what it means to "acknowledge" God. It simply means to accept and believe God. When this is done, He can "direct" our "paths." That means He will guide us so that we will go to the right places. (Give a personal testimony as to how God has directed you. Here is an example of what you might say: "I remember asking the Lord to lead me to a friend who would go to AWANA club with me, and He did. While playing one day, I found a friend who really wanted to go. The Lord guided me to him in answer to my prayer.")

The Lord wants to be included in every part of our lives. When He is, He will show us the path that we should take so that we will know where we are to go. He will also show us what we are to do and what we are to say. Boys and girls need to be guided by the Lord just like adults need to be guided.

SEE (for Apperception and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In today's lesson we will see how God guided Abraham's servant so he would go to the right place and find the right bride for Isaac.

I. God Guides by Using Wise Men (Gen 24:1-9; Prov 4:4-13; 11:14; 13:20)

A. Wise men know God's Word (24:1-7a).

Abraham knew that God did not want his son to marry a daughter of the unbelieving Canaanites (cf. Mal 2:11; 2 Cor 6:14). He also knew that it was not God's will for his son to leave the land to find a wife. Abraham had allowed himself to be delayed in Haran before he reached the land of promise and then he left the Promised Land to go to Egypt during a famine. These sinful experiences caused him problems from which he wanted to spare Isaac (Gen 12:1, 10-20). God had promised him and his children the land in which they were living, and Abraham knew that was where they were to stay (Gen 24:7a).

B. Wise men believe God's Word (24:7b).

Abraham knew that God would provide a wife for his son because he believed God's Word. He believed that God would direct his servant to find the right woman for Isaac by sending His angel before him to guide him all of his ways (cf. Prov 3:5-6).

C. Wise men obey God's Word (24:8-9).

Abraham said his servant would be cleared of his oath to get a bride for Isaac if she refused to follow him back to the Promised Land, but he strongly commanded him not to take Isaac out of the land in order to

find a wife. Abraham would no longer disobey God to get what he wanted. He had learned his lesson about doing a thing like that with Hagar (Gen 16).

WE: We will be wise people when we know God's Word, believe it and obey it. That is how God's Word can be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Ps 119:105). If we are wise, we will ask wise men to help us in our decisions just like Abraham's servant asked Abraham for his advice.

II. God Guides by Using Answered Prayer (Gen 24:10-27)

A. Answered prayer should be definite (24:10-14).

Abraham's servant prayed that God would send a young woman who would give him a drink when he asked for it. He also prayed that she would offer to give his camels water to drink as well. He asked that this be the young woman who should be the wife for Isaac.

B. Answered prayer should be useful (24:15-25).

Before Abraham's servant finished praying, a young woman named Rebekah appeared. She was beautiful, not married and was a good worker. She gave Abraham's servant water and offered to give water to all of his camels. Camels drink a lot of water, so Rebekah had a lot of work to do. When she finished her job and was given some gifts for her work, Abraham's servant asked whose daughter she was and whether there was room at her father's house for them to stay. Her answers were very useful to Abraham's servant. He learned that she was the daughter of Abraham's relative. He also learned that he and his traveling companions could stay at her father's house. God's answers to his prayer met his needs.

C. Answered prayer should bring worship (24:26-27).

As soon as Abraham's servant realized that his prayer had been wonderfully answered, he bowed his head and worshipped the Lord.

WE: When the Lord answers our prayers exactly as we asked Him to do, and it was for something that we really needed, we can be sure that the Lord has guided us to the right place to do the right things. When the Lord answers our prayers, we must never forget to worship Him and thank Him for what He has done.

III. God Guides by Using Willing People (Gen 24:28-61)

A. Willing people will see God's leading (24:28-53).

When Abraham's servant explained to Laban and Bethuel how He had prayed and how God had led him to meet Rebekah in answer to his prayer, they both said that they could see how God had led him to choose Rebekah to be Isaac's wife. Therefore, they said that Rebekah could go back with him.

B. Willing people will yield to God's leading (24:54-61).

When Abraham's servant wanted to return to his home the next morning and take Rebekah with him, her brother and mother objected and wanted to keep her for a few more days before they would let her go. They did not want to yield to God's leading right away because it was hard for them to let their beautiful Rebekah go. When Abraham's servant insisted that he be allowed to return right away, they yielded a little and said they would let Rebekah make her own decision. When she was asked what she wanted to do, she said she would like to go right away. So her family yielded completely and sent her away with their blessing.

WE: When we are willing to let the Lord do whatever He wants with our lives, we will see how He is leading in our lives, at least in part. If we are really willing to let the Lord have His way in our lives, we will yield to Him and make the right decisions. If we do this, we will go to the right places and do the right things.

BE (for Action): We have seen how God has guided others and what we must do if we want Him to guide us. Are you willing to let God guide you so that you will go to the right places and do the right things? He may use wise men to guide you. He may use answered prayer or willing people to guide you. But the question remains, are you willing to be guided by God?

(Have the children bow their heads and ask how many would like to be guided like Abraham's servant. Have them raise their hands if they want to be guided like this godly man. Pray for them as a class and offer to pray specifically for any after class that want to be guided by the Lord.)