

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

DATE: September 21, 2014

SUBJECT: THE FOREFATHERS OF THE CHOSEN PEOPLE OF ISRAEL—Isaac, the Promised Son of Abraham (part 2)

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 15:1-6; 17:1-8, 15-16, 19; 21:1-3; 22:1-18; 24:1-67

AIM: To introduce Abraham's son Isaac and his role in God's promise to Abraham.

MEMORY VERSES: Col. 3:20; Proverbs 3:5-6

SUGGESTED SONGS: #23(HE'S ABLE); #31 (SURELY HE WILL CARE FOR YOU); #64 (EVERY PROMISE IN THE BIBLE IS MINE)#171 (WHISPER A PRAYER); #5208 (OH, GET READY! EVENING SHADOWS FALL (Hymn 1318 verse 1 & 2); #6733 (TRUST IN THE LORD); #6732 (TRUST AND OBEY)

BACKGROUND/REVIEW: So far we have learned about two of the forefathers of the children of Israel, Abraham and his son Isaac. Because God wanted to have a new beginning with mankind, God called Abraham out of the idol-worshipping land into the land of Canaan. God had promised to greatly multiply Abraham's seed and to give his seed the land. He even promised that the whole earth would be blessed through his seed. What a blessing. When God first called Abraham, He promised him that he would have many descendants. It was twenty-five years later that God began the fulfillment of His promise by the birth of Isaac. Abraham was one hundred years old when his wife Sarah gave birth to their son Isaac.

APPROACH: When someone promises something, do you expect they will fulfill their promise right away? What if they do not keep it right away? Does that mean that they did not keep or will not keep it? (This is to reinforce last week's thought that God keeps His promises. Sometimes parents may promise you a trip or some item and it may take a while for them to save the money or have the time to keep that promise. That does not mean that they will not keep it.)

CONTENT: Years later, when Sarah was quite old, she died. By this time, Abraham was also quite old and he was concerned that his son Isaac needed a wife. Abraham's concern was not only that his son would have a wife, but that his future wife would be of his own kindred and country and not of idol-worshipping Canaan.

Abraham spoke to his servant, and made him swear an oath: he was not to take a wife for Isaac from the daughters of the Canaanites but go to Abraham's country and relatives to find a wife for Isaac. So the servant took ten camels and departed and went to the city of Nahor, Abraham's brother. The servant brought the camels to a well of water at evening time. That was the time that the women of the city went out to draw water. There at the well the servant prayed to the Lord according to Abraham's wish and request. He prayed that God would show kindness to his master Abraham. He prayed in a very specific way concerning Isaac's wife to be. He prayed that one of the women at the well would say to him, "Drink—and I will also give your camels a drink." The servant would take this as a sign from God that this was the woman God had chosen for Isaac.

God answered the servant's prayer exactly. The woman who came to the well was beautiful Rebekah, the granddaughter of Nahor. The servant worshipped God for answering his prayer. After Rebekah told her family what had happened at the well, her brother Laban invited the servant to stay with them. The servant explained how his master Abraham had sent him to his kinsmen's country to seek a wife for Isaac and how God had answered his prayer. Rebekah's father Bethuel and her brother Laban gave permission for her to go and become Isaac's wife. When the servant and Rebekah came back to Canaan, Isaac was in the field,

meditating. He looked up and saw their camels coming. Isaac met Rebekah, took her to be his wife and loved her; and he was comforted after the death of his mother.

REVIEW/APPLICATION:

- Why was it important for Isaac to get married?
 - So that Isaac could have children. That would be the beginning of Abraham's seed being multiplied.
- When it was time to find a wife, Isaac did not need to do anything on his own; his father took care of him. He simply was in the field meditating (praying). We might worry about little things, but we should be like Isaac and simply pray. Prayer will help us believe and trust in God. Even when we are very young, we can learn to trust. For example, we may be concerned about our new school year. We can pray that the Lord will help us. He always cares for us and our needs in the best way. He has also given us parents to take care of us. Just as Abraham took care of Isaac's needs, our parents also take care of our needs. We should thank the Lord for His care and for our parents.
- Being kind and generous - Even though Abraham's servant only asked to "sip a little water from your pitcher," Rebekah was kind and generous. When he asked if there was room in her father's house to lodge in, she was kind and offered a place. We should be kind and generous to others
- Being diligent - Rebekah had to work hard to get water from the well. The Bible also tells us she "hurried" and "ran." She not only worked hard, but worked quickly.

Adapted from the New York City's Children's Meeting lessons: 12/05/93; 1/09/94; 12/4/05; 12/18/05; 12/05/99; 12/26/99; 9/14/03, 9/20/2009