

Getting Ready for the Story

REBEKAH AND ISAAC

*This week's story is Genesis 24.
The theme is Family.*

WHAT ARE SOME DOORS INTO THIS STORY?

After you read the Bible text for this week's story, try one or more of these ways to enter the story further and prepare yourself to share it with kids.

Holy Places

Rebekah showed up at a holy place, the well, where God's will was carried out. What are your holy places? Perhaps your holy places are churches or beloved outdoor sites. During the different "seasons" of our lives, especially if we experience many moves, we may accumulate several treasured holy places. Visit one of your holy places this week, at least on a virtual map! Recall what made that place holy for you.

New Experiences

Write a letter or email message to someone you know who's going through a new experience, like moving to a new place, starting a new job, meeting a new member of the family, getting engaged, etc. Share with them some insight you gained as you read this story about Isaac and Rebekah. God meets us in new circumstances, and life keeps surprising us. What are your own new circumstances? How is God surprising you?

Parenting

Abraham really wanted his son Isaac to have a bride. For those of you who are parents: What have been the easiest and hardest parenting times? With whom do you talk about your concerns? Whether or not you're a parent, part of your ministry is listening to the parents of your Sunday school kids when they drop off and pick up their children. What are their worries? How can you support them? How can you support their kids?

WHY DOES THIS STORY OR THEME MATTER TO KIDS?

Read about these ways to view the story and today's theme through a kid lens to help inspire you as you prepare for Sunday school.

What We Need (PreK–Grade 2)

Young kids are learning basic concepts about how the world works. They begin with themselves as a reference for comprehending the world. For example, as young children experience the story of Rebekah and Isaac, they may think: “Camels need water, just like me. The people in the Bible need families, just like me. God gave Rebekah and Isaac what they needed, just like God gives me what I need.”

Meeting New People (Grades 3–6)

Abraham's servant wasn't sure who would show up at the well, any more than fourth graders are sure who will show up at baseball tryouts or auditions for the school play. For some kids, it can be exciting to meet more and more new people and to try brand new activities. But for many kids, new relationships and the unknown expectations they bring can be scary or cause anxiety. Competition is becoming more and more real in their lives, and the message that God loves us whether or not we make the team or get the leading role is important to share.

Same and Different (All Kids)

When Rebekah finally becomes pregnant, she feels confused about why her babies are wrestling before they are even born. These tussling baby twins will be fascinating for kids, because they are in the process of delineating what is the same and what is different. They may be wondering: “How can I look like my sister, yet we act so differently?” or “Is it okay that I'm not exactly the same as everyone in my Sunday school class?”

PRAYER

The Bible is filled with human characters who possess real faults, such as the conniving Jacob and the demanding Esau. People who imagine Christianity to be a judgmental, self-righteous religion might be surprised by the fallibility of our faith ancestors. Their imperfections can remind us that God made no flawless people. Are you waiting to pray until you are perfect? You can stop waiting now and start praying!

REMEMBER TO PREP

Read through your leader guide, check your supplies, and make sure you have enough leaflets for the kids in your class.