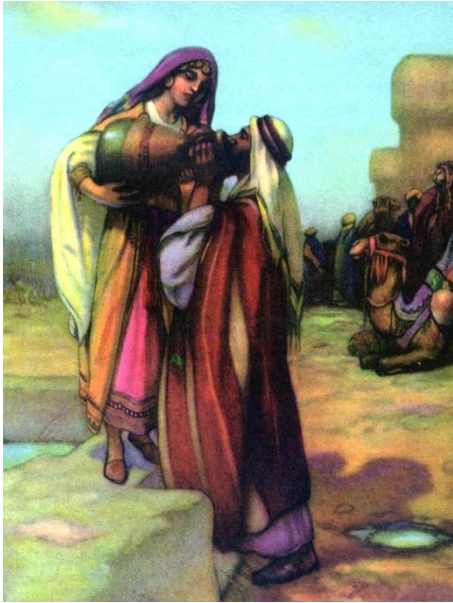


# SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

## LESSON 7



## A WIFE FOR ISAAC

*Scripture Text: Genesis 24*

To carry on God's plan for a nation, it was necessary that Isaac have a wife. Abraham, a father with concern for his children, took steps to obtain a suitable wife for him. He wanted the blessing of God's presence to continue in Isaac's life as God also wanted (**Genesis 17:19**).

Abraham chose a wife for Isaac of his own people. Christ's bride, the church, must be His own people. Rebekah was free to choose whether or not to marry Isaac. God answers prayer. We are free to choose Christ or not. Isaac took Rebekah to his own home. If we choose Christ, He will take us to His home.

**MEMORY VERSE: Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it. —Ephesians 5:25**

### DAILY READINGS:

Mon.—**Genesis 25:1-11** Isaac's inheritance.

Tue.—**Genesis 26:1-25** God repeats His covenant to Isaac.

Wed.—**Psalm 105:1-15** God's keeping of the covenant.

Thu.—**Romans 9:1-8** Children of God reckoned spiritually.

Fri.—**2 Peter 3:8-13** God calls all to repentance.

**Devotional Reading: Ephesians 5:21-33** Isaac and wife a type of Christ and the church.

### Of His Own Kindred

**Genesis 24:1-4 Abraham said unto his eldest servant— Eliezer (Genesis 15:2) Put . . . thy hand . . . swear**—a custom in taking an oath binding a promise. We, as servants of God, are sent, as was Eliezer, to gather a bride for Christ. **That thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the . . . Canaanites.** The Canaanites were sinners, heathens, idolaters, not children of God, not fit for his son of promise who was part of God's covenant. **Go unto my country . . . my kindred, and take a wife** for Isaac. She must be of his own kind. Christ's bride, the church, must be of His kindred, have His nature, be born of God.

Had Isaac married a Canaanite, his home would have been built after a Canaanite pattern. The sins of the Canaanites would have entered it. His children would have been half Canaanite. The lesson here applies to our marriages. Young people, choose carefully. Your choice determines in large measure the character of your home and of your own personal life. Do not marry the unsaved (**2 Corinthians 6:14-15**). Isaac's marriage is typical of Christ and His church (**Ephesians 5:25-27**). He cannot have sinful people for His bride.

### Isaac Not to Go to Haran

**Genesis 24:5-9 If the woman will not follow . . . must I . . . bring thy son . . . unto the land from whence thou camest?**—go back to Haran among the people Abraham had separated from? **Beware . . . bring not my son thither again.** It must not be. No undoing of God's work in separating a family for Himself. Refusal of the woman to come to Canaan would release Eliezer from his oath.

To take Isaac back among a people of sinful, idolatrous habits would be disastrous. Then his family would not be the pure, separated people God planned. So with us, Christ will not stoop to worldly standards in making up the church. He will not take in a people who are not born again, whose hearts are still carnal, enjoying

# SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

## LESSON 7

worldly pleasures. Many of this class are members of denominational churches, but never the true Church of God.

Some mistakenly think that to win the lost, we need to stoop to their level, do things and go places with them so they will do and go with us. No, to do so would only weaken our witness. The Bible gives no encouragement for this kind of actions. The world looks to the church to be different.

### Lord God of My Master

**Genesis 24:10-25** The servant took ten camels . . . went to Mesopotamia—the country where Abraham stopped on the way from Ur to Canaan and where his brother Nahor and family stayed. He stopped at a well at evening, when women came to draw water. He said, **O Lord God of my master**—he saw God's workings in Abraham's life—**send me good speed**—give success.

He proposed a test by which to find God's choice. He would ask a young woman for a drink of water. He asked God to cause his chosen one to give the drink and also offer drink for his camels. **Rebekah came out**—Abraham's brother, Nahor's, granddaughter. Rebekah fulfilled the test. **She . . . gave him drink . . . said, I will draw water for thy camels also.** God granted Eliezer's prayer. He brought Rebekah. It is God who draws us to repentance and to Christ (**John 6:44**). Eliezer had faith in God. He prayed for guidance and followed it. Why? Because he had seen faith and its answer in Abraham. What idea of God are people gaining from watching our lives?

### Bowed His Head and Worshiped

**Genesis 24:26-61** The man bowed down his head, and worshipped the Lord—fitting worship and praise for God's blessings. He blessed the Lord. There followed introductions to Rebekah's family, entertainment in their home, explanation of his mission, and agreement that Rebekah should go to Canaan to be Isaac's wife. **Wilt thou go with this man? . . . I will go**—it was her choice. We are free to accept Christ or refuse Him. It is our choice.

Many ideas of worship are around us in the world. Some think that worship is in the quietness and beauty of our surroundings. Others think that music, beautiful singing, etc., are worship. These may be associated with worship, but are not worship in themselves. Worship is an attitude of heart. It is our answer to what God means to us. When Eliezer saw God's goodness in answering prayer, his heart filled with thankfulness, praise, and love. He just bowed his head where he was and let his heart pour out its thanks and praise and love to the Lord. That was real worship.

### Isaac's Bride a Type of the Church

**Genesis 24:62-67** Isaac . . . took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her—a happy home where love reigned, as God intends every home to be. The saints, Christ's bride, have fellowship with Him now and are to enjoy **the exceeding riches of his grace** eternally in Heaven (**Ephesians 2:6-7**). We read in **Ephesians 5:25** how **Christ . . . loved the church** enough to give **himself**—His life—**for it**. Such love as the Lord gave deserves the same love in return with our whole hearts.

Perhaps the greatest lesson in this for us is to see in it a picture, a type, of the church. As Abraham was very particular in selecting a bride for Isaac, so God is in choosing a bride for Christ. If we would be His bride—and we must be, or suffer the consequences of hell forever—we must be prepared according to His requirements. The Church of God is not *everyone* and *everything*. It is a called-out, separated, purified, born-again, made-alive people.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

## LESSON 7

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.  
It is revised and posted here with written permission from  
(c) Bible Paths Publications, PO Box 299, Keithville, LA 71047