



Session 4



ISAAC AND REBEKAH

Genesis 21:1-7; 24

God's call of Abraham is central to every episode in his life. God made several promises to Abraham in that calling. In subsequent encounters, God clarified and explained these promises. At the heart of all of them was God's pledge to multiply Abraham's descendants into a nation that would occupy the land of Canaan. God would bless all humanity through Abraham. Every event moves the narrative one step closer to that blessing. Therefore, every experience in Abraham's life must be interpreted in light of its correlation to the fulfillment of God's pledge.

God promised to make a great nation from Abraham's countless descendants. God is faithful. Within the year specified, Sarah became the mother of Abraham's son. The couple named him Isaac in obedience to the Lord's instructions. God promised to make a great nation from Abraham's countless descendants. Isaac—Abraham and Sarah's only son and heir to the promise—was in his late thirties. Fulfillment of the promise required a new generation, but Isaac was not married and his prospects for a wife weren't particularly hopeful. Abraham opposed any union with the women of Canaan.

Abraham commissioned a servant to go back to Haran and obtain a wife from Abraham's extended family. While he paused at a well in Haran, the servant prayed for success. God granted the servant's petition and led him to Rebekah, Abraham's brother's granddaughter. The servant lavished her with gold jewelry. When her brother Laban saw the expensive ornaments, he invited the servant to dine with the family. Before accepting the invitation, the servant shared in great detail his mission, his prayer, and his perception of Rebekah's advent. After hearing his story, Rebekah's father and brother consented to betrothing her to Isaac. Rebekah and Isaac were married when Isaac was 40 years old. God made a promise to Abraham, and God always keeps His promises.

SESSION FOCUS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 21:1-7; 24

MEMORY VERSE: Isaiah 40:28

BONUS VERSE: Psalm 54:2

TEXT TRUTH: God hears and answers our prayers.

BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT: Identifies prominent Bible people by the books in which their stories are recorded. Names all the books of the Old Testament and all the books of the New Testament.

BIBLE STUDY

(35 MINUTES)

- ☐ **Jump In:** *two small, new, inexpensive plungers; ring toss rings; "Marriage Ring" (Slide)*
- ☐ **Examine the Text:** *Bibles, "Text Truth 4" (Slide)*
- ☐ **Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location video*
- ☐ **Memory Verse:** *"Isaiah 40:28" (Poster Pack), permanent marker, scissors, bag, wadded up scrap paper balls, bucket*
- ☐ **Prayer:** *Family Cards*

APPLY THE TRUTH

(20 MINUTES)

- ☐ **Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- ☐ **Review:** *dark-colored sticky notes, pencils, poster board, "Review Questions" (Printables)*
- ☐ **Tech Connect** (Optional): *a device with the LifeWay Kids app*

ACTIVITIES

(20 MINUTES)

- ☐ **Bible Skills:** *"Name Game Strips" (Poster Pack), envelopes, marker, paper, pencils*
- ☐ **Move:** *dry erase board, dry erase markers, slips of paper, gift bag, timer, "Text Truth 4" (Slide)*
- ☐ **Make:** *variety of colors of paper, pencils, "Origami Ring Instructions" (Printables)*
- ☐ **Explore:** *"Soto Family and Ministry Photos" (Poster Pack), "Soto Photo Captions," (Printables), tape, index cards, pencils*

ISAAC AND REBEKAH

Genesis 21:1-7; 24

God kept His special promise. Sarah and Abraham had a son and named him Isaac. Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born. Isaac grew up and one day Abraham called his servant—the one who managed all Abraham owned. Abraham asked the servant to travel back to the land Abraham was from and find a wife for Abraham’s son, Isaac.

The servant took 10 camels and many goods. When he arrived, he made the camels kneel beside a well. It was the time of day when women would come to the well for water.

The servant prayed to God, “Please help me today. Let the girl to whom I say, ‘Please lower your water jug so I can have a drink’ and who responds, ‘Drink, and I’ll water your camels too’—let her be the one you have chosen to marry Isaac.”

Before he finished his prayer, a woman named Rebekah appeared. She was very beautiful. She went to the spring and filled her jug. The servant went to her and said, “Please let me have a little water from your jug.” Rebekah answered, “Drink.” When she finished giving him water, she said, “I’ll draw water for your camels too.”

She drew water for the servant’s camels until they were finished drinking.

The servant watched her to see whether or not she was the woman God had selected for Isaac.

When the camels finished drinking, the servant asked Rebekah about her family. He wanted to stay with them. Rebekah agreed.

The man bowed down and worshiped the Lord for providing for Abraham’s son Isaac.

Rebekah led him to meet her family. Soon, Rebekah’s family agreed that God had chosen her for Isaac and agreed to let her travel back with the servant to Abraham’s home. The servant gave Rebekah many objects of silver and gold and garments. He gave precious gifts to her brother, Laban, and Rebekah’s mother. Rebekah agreed to leave right away. Rebekah traveled with the servant back to Abraham’s home. When she arrived, she and Isaac were married. Isaac loved her.

CHRIST IN CONTEXT:

The Book of Genesis is a book of beginnings. In the beginning, God created a perfect world. Sin separated mankind from God and showed that people need a Savior. God called Abraham and promised him that one day his descendants would be God’s special people and one day, He would send a Messiah—Jesus—to rescue them.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See *Printables* for additional family resources.

BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

TOOLS:

- Jump In: two small, new, inexpensive plungers; ring toss rings; "Marriage Ring" (Slide)
- Examine the Text: Bibles, "Text Truth 4" (Slide)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: "Isaiah 40:28" (Poster Pack), permanent marker, scissors, bag, wadded up scrap paper balls, bucket
- Prayer: Family Cards

Need an Opening Activity? Choose one of the activities in the *Activities* section and adapt it to introduce the session.

JUMP IN

- Greet kids as they enter and let them know how excited you are they came.
- Select two kids to hold plungers (*small, new, inexpensive plungers*) on their heads and form two teams from remaining kids.
- Give each team a set of "rings" to toss at plunger handle. The rings can be made from paper plates, flying discs, diving rings, or other materials you have on hand.
- On your signal, each team will take turns throwing their rings at their assigned plunger. When you say stop, see which team landed the most rings around the plunger. Play again as time permits.
- Say: "That was a fun way to play ring toss and it gives us a hint about our object today."
- Ask: "Does anyone want to guess what it might be? It's not meant to be tossed around a plunger like the rings we used in our game."
- Display the "Marriage Ring" slide.
- Say: "The ring has been a symbol of a commitment between a man and a woman for a long time! This ring is from the Byzantine empire of the third or fourth century. It is a reminder of the vows a husband and wife made to each other and also a symbol for others to see. Let's find out how the marriage ring fits into today's Bible story!"

EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Display the Text Truth: **God hears and answers our prayers.**
- Say: "Think about the last time you asked God something in prayer and He answered it. (*He always answers our prayers, but you may not have seen the answer yet.*) Every time we see God working and answering our prayers, it strengthens our faith and encourages us to pray more and seek His will more!"
- Continue: "Open your Bibles to Genesis 24 and we are going to see that God heard and answered the prayer of a man of faith."
- Say: "God had promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son named Isaac. God kept His promise. After Isaac grew up, Abraham was concerned about who he would marry. They were surrounded by Canaanites who worshiped other gods, false gods. Abraham sent his servant back to his home country to find a wife. I am sure that servant was very nervous about this task! He was picking a wife for his boss's son! He did not want to mess that up. He must have realized the seriousness of it because he prayed, asking God for help in finding the right woman for Isaac."
- Ask for someone to read Genesis 24:12-14.

- Ask: “Why is it important that the servant prayed?” Allow kids to share their thoughts.
- Continue telling the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Ask someone to read Genesis 24:10 and ask: “How many camels did Abraham’s servant have that needed watering?” (10)
- Continue: “A camel may drink 30 gallons of water in 15 minutes! For 10 camels, Rebekah might need to draw hundreds of gallons of water! God clearly answered the servant’s prayer.”
- Conclude: “Our Text Truth helps us to remember an amazing truth about being a follower of God—**God hears and answers our prayers.**”
- Remind kids that God answers prayers in the way and in the timing that He knows is best. Sometimes this means He will answer “no” or “wait.”

PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 4 video.
- Ask: “What animal did Joel meet? How much water can a camel drink in one sitting? What did he learn about today’s Bible story?”

MEMORY VERSE

- ☐ *Bonus Verse Option: The Memory Verse activity each week is focused on the monthly Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:28. If your kids quickly memorize the Memory Verse, you may opt to challenge them to learn an additional weekly Bonus Verse. This week’s Bonus Verse is Psalm 54:2.*

- Since this is the last week to study Isaiah 40:28 use the “Isaiah 40:28” poster to make a puzzle. Draw puzzle pieces on the poster with a permanent marker and then cut the pieces apart and place in a bag. Crumple up pieces of scrap paper into balls to use as basketballs.
- Say: “You are going to take turns shooting baskets with the paper balls into this bucket to win pieces of our Memory Verse puzzle. When all of the pieces have been won, work together to complete the puzzle.”
- Play game and complete puzzle.
- Conclude: “Let’s say the verse together. If you need help, use the puzzle; but if you already know the verse, don’t look.”

PRAYER

- Begin by sharing examples of how God has answered your prayers. Then ask kids to share too.
- Say: “It is always encouraging to remember how God has answered our prayers and to hear how He’s answered others. Let’s thank Him now for hearing and answering our prayers.”
- Ask for some volunteers to thank God for hearing and answering our prayers. Close the prayer time.
- Distribute the Family Cards. Encourage girls and boys to talk about the question on the back of the card with their family this week.

APPLY THE TRUTH (20 MINUTES)

EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and locate today's pages.
- Invite kids to take turns reading aloud the "Crazy Camel Facts."
- Help boys and girls solve "An Amazing Maze." Invite kids to share their favorite part or detail in today's Bible story as they work.
- Read aloud "Beersheba: Home Sweet Home."
- Review today's object, the "Marriage Ring."
- Guide girls and boys to understand more about praying to God by leading them to complete the activity, "Praying Hands."

TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Review: dark-colored sticky notes, pencils, poster board, "Review Questions" (Printables)
- Tech Connect (Optional): a device with the LifeWay Kids app

REVIEW

- Write point values on the back of sticky notes with positive numbers and negative numbers. Attach the sticky notes to a piece of poster board.
- Introduce this game as "Yay or Nay Sticky Review" and form teams. Explain that if they answer a review question correctly, they can select a sticky note from the poster board. Warn them, though, that a correct answer does not always mean more points. This is where the yay or nay part of the game comes into play.
- Use this week's "Review Questions" for game. Use questions from previous weeks if needed.

TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

- Prior to Small Group, download the LifeWay Kids app. Use the activity labeled "Explorer Plus" in the Explore the Bible: Kids section of the app.

ACTIVITIES (20 MINUTES)

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.

NAME GAME



Tools: "Name Game Strips" (Poster Pack), envelopes, marker, paper, pencils

- ☐ Print each number and book name(s) on a separate envelope: 1. Joshua; 2. Judges; 3. Ruth; 4. 1 & 2 Samuel; 5. 1 & 2 Kings; 6. 1 & 2 Chronicles; 7. Ezra; 8. Nehemiah; 9. Esther; 10. Matthew; 11. Mark; 12. Luke; 13. John.
 - ☐ Follow the directions on the "Name Game Strips" to place the correct strip in each envelope.
 - ☐ Place the envelopes at thirteen different stations around the room.
- Help kids pair up and each stand at a station around the room. Give each pair a piece of paper and pencil.
 - Say: "When I say start, take out the names in the envelope at your station. Decide which name of a Bible person is found in the book written on the outside of the envelope. Write the number on the envelope on your paper and your answer. Then move on to the next station. Keep moving until you have completed all thirteen stations."
 - After every pair has completed the thirteen stations ask for answers to each and reveal what the correct answer is. Then designate one side of the room as Old Testament and the other side as New Testament. Give each pair an envelope (*after mixing Old Testament and New Testament*) and have them walk to the side of the room they believe their book is found. Then reveal which are correct by leaving them where they are or moving them to the other side.
 - Say: "It's always great to review Bible people and books of the Bible. The more we know about our Bible, the more we can know about God!"

DRAW IT AND GUESS IT



Tools: dry erase board and markers, slips of paper, gift bag, timer, "Text Truth 4" (Slide)

- ☐ Write the following words on slips of paper for kids to draw (feel free to add more from previous Bible stories): baby Isaac, servant, prayer, camel, well, daughter, wedding, jewelry, marriage ring, and water jug. Put the slips of paper in a gift bag.
- Say: "Our Bible story today was about Isaac finding a wife and getting married. You always take a gift to a wedding, so I brought one with me today. It is full of gifts for our game."
 - Allow a child to select a slip of paper from the gift bag and attempt to draw the object or person written on their paper. Set a timer for one minute and begin the game. Let the whole group guess what is being drawn. Continue to play until the gift bag is empty.
 - Conclude: "Our Text Truth tells us that God gives us a gift everyday. Let's say it so we can remember what that gift is: **God hears and answers our prayers.**"

ORIGAMI RING



Tools: variety of colors of paper, pencils, "Origami Ring Instructions" (Printables)

- ☐ Print the ring outline from the "Origami Ring Instructions" on a variety of colors of paper.
- ☐ Make an example ring, so that you are able to help guide kids through the process.
- ☐ Make multiple copies of the "Origami Ring Instructions" for kids to share.
- Say: "Our special object for today was an ancient marriage ring. We also learned that wedding rings are a symbol that serves as a reminder of a commitment. We are going to make rings today that remind us of our Text Truth: **God hears and answers our prayers.**"
- Allow kids to select a ring outline in the color of their choice.
- Guide kids to write the Text Truth on their pieces of paper. This will not be visible, but can serve as a reminder to them of this promise, tucked inside their ring.
- Distribute the "Origami Ring Instructions" and help kids as they follow the steps to make a ring.

MATCH THE PHOTO



Tools: "Soto Family and Ministry Photos" (Poster Pack), "Soto Photo Captions," (Printables), tape, index cards, pencils

- ☐ Display the photos in your room. Print the photo captions and cut them apart.
- Say: "This month we've been focusing on a missionary couple named Luis and Betty Soto. They have started a church in Utah for people who speak Spanish. Many of the people in Utah have heard of Jesus, but they do not know the truth of who the Bible says Jesus is. Luis preaches and teaches from the Bible in Spanish so that people can understand they need to repent of their sin and trust Jesus as Savior and Lord."
- Invite kids to look at the photos that you have displayed. Ask for volunteers to choose a caption. Encourage kids to work together to match the caption to the photo. Tape the caption to the bottom of the photo.
- Next, encourage kids to look at the photos again and write on an index card ways that they can pray for the Sotos and mission work in Utah. Suggest prayers for their family, health, people to repent and trust Christ, the Soto's family in Puerto Rico, and so on.
- Guide kids to tape the index cards next to the photos. Consider making a "prayer poster" with the photos and index cards. If possible, leave the photos displayed during the rest of the quarter.
- Close with a prayer time, asking kids to read the prayer requests they wrote. Ask for a few volunteers to voice a prayer aloud.