

Session 4

Isaac and Rebekah

Children discover how Isaac and Rebekah got married.

Scripture: Genesis 23–24

Supplies:

- Flowers for the welcome
- Old clothes, material, and cheap jewellery
- 2 hand puppets
- Paper bags, old socks, buttons, beads, material, etc. to make hand puppets
- Beads and chords to make jewellery
- Clothes for Rebekah



Welcome

Receive the children at the door with flowers (paper or real). Tell each one, “God sees you.”

Treasure hunt:

Hide old clothes, material, scarves, and jewellery (cheap). Give the children five minutes to find it. Put everything together. Let the children sit down. Hold up the items one by one and let them choose if it goes on the “wow” heap or on the “oh no!” heap. They can shout “wow” or show a thumbs-up, or shout “oh no!” or give a thumbs-down. Call a girl to the front, preferably one of the older girls. (Later on we’re going to use her in the role of Rebekah). She can choose from the “wow” heap of clothes and jewellery and get dressed up.



Worship

Settle down ritual: Children lie on the ground and hold each other’s hands. The leader says: “Remember, God binds us together as his children and also to our ancestors Abraham and Isaac.” Give each other’s hand a squeeze to confirm this and then get up again.



Word

Use 2 hand puppets. Two different socks with eyes (buttons or googly eyes) and wool for hair will do well, or just use whatever you have. It can be done as a puppet show as well. One puppet is the story teller (glasses made from wire or pipe cleaners would look nice). The other can be more colourful. He or she can interrupt the storyteller with questions. You can even give them names if you want to – name the storyteller Freddie and his friend Eddie.

A biblical love story

Freddie: I am Freddie. I was so curious to know what happened to Isaac. I heard you know who Isaac is.

Eddie: Oh, I know, I know! My grandpa’s name is Isaac.

Freddie: No man, Eddie! Let’s ask the children. They learned who Isaac is. Children, can you tell Eddie about the biblical Isaac?

Let the children tell the story.

- Eddie: Aww cute! It's such a nice story... Isaac, the wonder baby!
- Freddie: Yes, Eddie... it's like you just said. But babies grow up and I read Isaac's story in my Bible three times last night!
- Eddie: Wow, you're so clever.
- Freddie: I am so glad that God helped me to read well, because now I can tell you the rest of the story. Isaac grew up, and was a young man. His mom, Sarah, had died and after his dad, Abraham, had buried her, he was very sad and alone.
- Eddie: It would help if we gave him a dog...
- Freddie: Shhh, you're confusing me. Abraham knew that it was time for his son to get married. He called his slave and said, "Promise me that you will make sure that my son marries a good woman. Go find Isaac a woman in the land that I was born."
- Eddie: What was wrong with the girls in his land?
- Freddie: They were worshipping false gods. The slave understood that Isaac needed a good woman who loves the Lord. But how would he find the right woman?
- Eddie: The Bachelor?
- Freddie: Luckily the slave was smarter than you, Eddie! He prayed. He didn't guess or advertise, he just trusted God. He went to the land that Abraham told him about, sat down by a fountain and prayed. *Leader's name*, please read us the lovely prayer in Genesis 24:12-14.

Leader reads the scripture

- Freddie: The slave trusted God that the right woman would come talk to him. It went like this: While he was still praying, Rebekah arrived. She was very pretty, kind, good, friendly, helpful...
- Eddie: And does she know God?
- Freddie: Yes, her dad was related to Abraham and their whole family served the Lord. But remember, the slave didn't know her. That's why he had to ask her to give him water so that God could show him if she was the right woman.
- Eddie: And what if she was the wrong girl?
- Freddie: No man, Eddie, you're confusing us! Listen to the story. The slave asked Rebekah for water and she was so friendly that she immediately gave him water and said that she would give the camels water without him having to ask. The slave sat still and watched Rebekah carrying the water and thought about his prayer. He was so surprised that God made everything work out so well. When the camels were finished drinking, the slave got up and gave Rebekah gold rings and bracelets. He asked Rebekah who her dad is and when he heard he was related to Abraham, he... listen to this... knelt down and praised the Lord.
- Eddie: Can I say something?
- Freddie: Yes, Eddie?
- Eddie: I was wondering. Rebekah had to be on the road for a long time to meet the slave at the fountain when he got there.
- Freddie: You're right. God knows everything and nothing is too difficult for Him. And I saw a pretty girl here earlier, one who looks like Rebekah.

Let the girl who dressed up like Rebekah come closer

- Eddie: I see her, I see her! There she is.
- Freddie: Would you please come stand over here, then you can help us with the story? Rebekah ran home. Her brother, Laban, wanted to know where she got the golden jewellery. Laban ran to the fountain to meet the slave.
- Eddie: Did they drink Red Bull for all that running?
- Freddie: Never, Eddie! God was busy doing special things and it made them very excited.
- Eddie: I want to run as well! But that's my secret. You'll never guess where I want to run.
- Freddie: You just want to be closer to the children. I know. Rebekah was a very good girl and wanted to do what God wanted. She listened well to what the slave told her. She heard that he prayed and that

everything happened as he asked of God. Her brother said that she can choose whether she'd like to go with the slave. She said "yes".

Eddie: Oooh, will she go? Will she go??

Freddie: Eddie, you need to hear what her brother did.

Eddie: What?

Freddie: He blessed her and wished her the very best. Rebekah then left with the slave...

Eddie: ... probably on a camel's back. Up and down, up and down over the sand dune. *(Let Eddie make overdramatic movements to illustrate)*

Freddie: That's right. They travelled, and when they were nearby Isaac's house, Isaac came out to meet them. Rebekah jumped off the camel and asked, "Who is that man?" She pulled a veil over her face when she heard it was Isaac.

Eddie: A ve... what?

Freddie: A veil, it's a soft piece of material that you put over your face.

Eddie: Shame...

Freddie: No, not "shame!" It's what good girls did back then. Isaac immediately liked Rebekah. Soon after, they were married and Isaac really loved her.

Eddie: Does it say that in the Bible?

Freddie: Yes, just like that. Isaac loved her.

Eddie: So they lived happily ever after?

Freddie: Happily ever after.

Eddie: *Gives a deep and happy sigh*

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder what your favourite part of the story was.
2. I wonder what the word "love" means to you.
3. I wonder which part of the story was the strangest.



Working and Playing

- Draw a picture of what you liked in the story.
- Make your own hand puppet (sock or paper bag).
- Make jewellery.

Closing prayer to end the session

