Preschool–Grade 6

Rebekah at the Well

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: Be kind, even more than you are asked. God hears our prayers and leads us when we follow Him.
Bible passage: Genesis 24:1–67. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking." *Genesis 24:19 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board.

1. Opening game: Do the Extra (5–10 minutes)

Read each job. Kids call out the least they could do, then something extra and kind they could do too. 1) Mom asks you to carry in one bag of groceries. 2) A new kid asks where the bathroom is. 3) Your teacher asks you to pick up the crayons at your table. 4) Grandma asks you to bring her a glass of water. Ask: *Why is the extra part the kindest part?* Say: "Today we will meet a girl who did much more than she was asked."

2. Bible story: Rebekah at the Well (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Genesis 24. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

Abraham's errand. Abraham was old, and the LORD had blessed him in all things (Genesis 24:1). Abraham's oldest servant ruled over everything Abraham had (24:2). Abraham made him promise, with an **oath** (a serious promise) by the LORD, to go to Abraham's own **kindred**, his family far away, and bring back a wife for Isaac (24:3–4). **Look up Genesis 24:7.** Abraham trusted the LORD to send His angel before the servant.

The prayer at the well. The servant took ten camels and traveled to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor (24:10). In the evening, when the women came out to **draw** water, he made the camels kneel down by the well (24:11). **Look up Genesis 24:12. Send me good speed** means help me do this well today. He asked God for a sign: the girl who would say, "Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also," would be the one God chose for Isaac (24:14).

Rebekah. Look up Genesis 24:15. Before he had done speaking, Rebekah came with her **pitcher** (a big water jar) on her shoulder. She was from Abraham's family: her grandfather Nahor was Abraham's brother (24:15). She went down to the well and filled her pitcher (24:16). The servant ran to meet her and asked for a little water (24:17). "Drink, my lord," she said, and she **hasted** (hurried) to give him drink (24:18).

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More than she was asked. Look up Genesis 24:19. He asked her for a drink for himself, and she offered to water the camels too. **Look up Genesis 24:20.** A **trough** is a long box animals drink from. Ten camels after a long trip need a lot of water, and she kept running back to the well until all of them had drunk. **Look up Genesis 24:21. Wondering at her held his peace** means he watched her quietly, amazed, to see whether the LORD had made his trip **prosperous** (successful).

God led the way. When the camels were done, the servant gave her a golden earring and two bracelets (24:22) and asked whose daughter she was. She was the daughter of Bethuel, from Abraham's family, and there was straw and **provender** (animal food) and room to stay (24:23–25). **Look up Genesis 24:27.** The servant bowed his head and worshiped the LORD, because "the LORD led me."

"I will go." Rebekah ran and told her family. Her brother Laban brought the servant home (24:28–31). The servant would not eat until he had told his **errand**, the job he was sent to do (24:33). He told them all about his prayer at the well (24:34–49). Laban and Bethuel said, "The thing proceedeth from the LORD," which means God did this (24:50). The next morning her brother and mother wanted her to stay at least ten days, but the servant wanted to go (24:55–56). **Look up Genesis 24:58.** Rebekah chose to go.

Meeting Isaac. Rebekah and her maids rode on the camels (24:61). Isaac went out to **meditate** (think and pray quietly) in the field in the evening, and he saw the camels coming (24:63). Rebekah got down from her camel and covered herself with a **vail** (a veil, a cloth over the face) (24:64–65). **Look up Genesis 24:67.** She became Isaac's wife, and he loved her.

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. The servant prayed before he did anything else at the well (24:12). Why is it good to pray before we start something important?
2. God answered before the servant finished praying (24:15). What does that show you about God?
3. Rebekah didn't know who the stranger was, but she was kind to him and his camels (24:19–20). Why does God want us to be kind even to people we don't know?
4. When God answered, the servant stopped and worshiped (24:26–27). How can you thank God when He answers your prayers?
5. Rebekah said, "I will go" (24:58). What is something God may be asking you to say yes to?

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Recall questions

1. How many camels did the servant take? *(Ten, Genesis 24:10)*
2. What did Rebekah carry on her shoulder? *(Her pitcher, 24:15)*
3. Who was Rebekah's brother? *(Laban, 24:29)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **draw water** means fill a jar with water from the well, **thy** means your, and **until they have done drinking** means until they are not thirsty anymore. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Rebekah was kind, and God used her kindness to answer the servant's prayer. God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

This week: each day, do one kind thing that nobody asked you to do, and pray before you start your day.

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6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Genesis 24:10: To which city did the servant go? *(The city of Nahor, in Mesopotamia)*
2. Genesis 24:11: What time of day was it at the well? *(The time of the evening)*
3. Genesis 24:15: When did Rebekah come out? *(Before he had done speaking)*
4. Genesis 24:20: Where did Rebekah empty her pitcher? *(Into the trough)*
5. Genesis 24:26: What did the servant do after he heard who she was? *(He bowed down his head and worshipped the LORD)*
6. Genesis 24:29: What was the name of Rebekah's brother? *(Laban)*
7. Genesis 24:63: What did Isaac see when he lifted up his eyes? *(The camels were coming)*
8. Genesis 24:67: How did Isaac feel about Rebekah? *(He loved her)*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You hear us, sometimes even before we finish praying. Help us be kind even to people we don't know, and do more than we are asked. Lead us, and help us say yes to You. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

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