Preschool–Grade 6

Rebekah at the Well

Sunday School Lesson for Preteens (Ages 11–12), 45–60 minutes

Main point: Real kindness goes past what is asked, and God answers prayer and leads those who follow Him.
Bible passage: Genesis 24:1–67. Students read Genesis 24:10–27 and 24:50–67 out loud themselves.
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)* and "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." *Galatians 6:10 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each student, paper or a notebook and a pen for each student, a whiteboard and a marker, and one take-home sheet for each student.
Before class: read Genesis 24, Galatians 6:10 and Isaiah 65:24. Write both memory verses on the board. Decide who reads which verses, or go around the room a few verses each.

1. Opening game: Asked or Extra? (5–10 minutes)

Name one side of the room "asked" and the other side "extra." Read each action. Students walk to the side that fits. 1) You hold the door for the person right behind you. 2) You notice a classmate eating alone and sit with them. 3) You do your chores when your parents remind you. 4) You stay after church to help stack chairs when nobody asked. Ask: *Which kind of kindness costs you more? Which one do people remember?* Say: "Today we will see what one girl's extra kindness had to do with God's plan."

2. Bible story: Students Read It (15 minutes)

Tell the beginning in your own words: Abraham was old, and the LORD had blessed him (24:1). He made his eldest servant swear an **oath** by the LORD to go to Abraham's **kindred** (family) and bring back a wife for Isaac, not one from the Canaanites around them (24:2–4). The servant asked, what if she won't come? Abraham said, the LORD "shall send his angel before thee" (24:5–7).
Read out loud: Genesis 24:10–27. Old words in this passage:

- **draw water** (24:11): fill a jar from the well; **send me good speed** (24:12): help me succeed today
- **damsel** (24:14): a young woman; **appointed** (24:14): chosen
- **a virgin, neither had any man known her** (24:16): she was not married yet
- **hasted** (24:18): hurried; **trough** (24:20): a long box animals drink from
- **wondering at her held his peace** (24:21): watched her quietly, amazed; **prosperous** (24:21): successful
- **provender** (24:25): animal food; **destitute** (24:27): left without
- **I being in the way, the LORD led me** (24:27): while I was on the road, the LORD guided me

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Tell the middle part in your own words: Rebekah ran home, and her brother Laban brought the servant in (24:28–32). The servant would not eat until he told his **errand**, the job he was sent to do (24:33), and he told the whole story of his prayer at the well (24:34–49).
Read out loud: Genesis 24:50–67. Old words in this passage:

- **proceedeth from the LORD** (24:50): comes from the LORD; **raiment** (24:53): clothes
- **tarried** (24:54): stayed; **abide** (24:55): stay; **hinder me not** (24:56): don't hold me back
- **enquire at her mouth** (24:57): ask her yourselves
- **meditate** (24:63): think and pray quietly; **eventide** (24:63): evening
- **lighted off** (24:64): got down from; **vail** (24:65): a veil, a cloth to cover the face

3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. The servant prayed for a sign that would show a kind heart: a girl who would offer to water ten camels (24:14). Why do you think he asked for that sign and not something else?
2. "Before he had done speaking," Rebekah came (24:15). Read Isaiah 65:24. What does it tell you about how God hears prayer?
3. Rebekah offered more than she was asked, to a stranger, and it was hard work (24:19–20). What does kindness like that look like at your school or at home?
4. When God answered, the servant stopped right there and worshiped (24:26–27, 24:52). Why is it easy to forget to thank God after He answers?
5. "I being in the way, the LORD led me" (24:27). The servant was moving, doing his job, when God led him. How does God lead people who are already obeying Him?
6. Rebekah's family said, "Wilt thou go with this man?" and she said, "I will go" (24:58). What takes courage about saying yes to God's plan?

4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words in Genesis 24:19 and Galatians 6:10: **draw** means fill a jar from the well; **thy** means your; **opportunity** means a chance; **do good unto all men** means be good to everyone; **the household of faith** means God's family, the church.
Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say Genesis 24:19 this week; keep working on Galatians 6:10 next week too.

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5. What this means for us (5–10 minutes)

Say: "God heard the servant's prayer and led him. God loves you, and 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, KJV). We obey the gospel the way Peter preached it: '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) We **repent**, turning from sin, and our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are buried with Jesus by baptism in His name, all the way under the water. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we rise to walk in newness of life, a brand-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 utterance, which means as He gives the words (Acts 2:4). Jesus called this being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5)."
Pray with the students, 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.

6. Activity: Journal (10 minutes)

Each student writes privately. No one has to share. Write these three prompts on the board:

1. Who around me needs kindness that goes past what they ask for?
2. What is one prayer God has answered for me, and did I thank Him?
3. Write a short prayer asking God to lead you this week, and to help you say "I will go" when He shows you the way.
   If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

This week: look for one chance each day to "do good unto all men" (Galatians 6:10), and do the extra part.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You hear us, even before we finish speaking. Make us kind past what is asked, lead us while we walk in Your way, and give us courage to say yes to You. Thank You for loving us and making a way to save us through Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a student asks about the gifts of gold or the vail: answer from the text. The servant gave Rebekah a golden earring and bracelets (24:22, 24:47) and later jewels and clothes (24:53), as Abraham's gifts to her and her family. She covered herself with a vail when she met Isaac (24:65). The Bible tells it simply; so do we.

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