Preschool–Grade 6

# Rebekah at the Well

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

**Main point:** Be kind, even more than you are asked. God hears our prayers and leads the way.
**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, 4 paper strips, a marker, tape, paper cups, a bowl of blue paper squares (the "water"), an empty box (the "trough"), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
**Before class:** write the memory verse on the 4 paper strips (see part 4). Put the bowl of "water" at one end of the room and the empty box at the other. Put bookmarks in your Bible at Genesis 24:15 and Genesis 24:19.

## 1. Opening game: Water the Camels (5 minutes)

Make two teams. One at a time, each child fills a paper cup with blue paper "water" from the bowl (the well), carries it across the room, empties it into the box (the trough) and runs back to give the cup to the next child. Keep going until the trough is full. Ask: *Was that a lot of work? Would you do it for someone you had never met?* Say: "Today we will meet a girl who did a lot of work for a stranger and his thirsty camels, and nobody even asked her to!"

## 2. Bible story: Rebekah at the Well (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Genesis 24, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

**Abraham** was very old, and the LORD had blessed him (Genesis 24:1). His son **Isaac** needed a wife. Abraham sent his oldest **servant** far away to Abraham's own family, to find a wife for Isaac (24:2–4). Abraham said the LORD would send His angel before the servant (24:7).

The servant took ten camels and went on the long trip to the city of Nahor (24:10). He made the camels kneel down by a **well** outside the city. It was evening, the time when the women came out to **draw** water, which means to fill their jars with water from the well (24:11).

The servant prayed. He asked God to help him and to show him the right girl. He asked God to let the girl who said, "Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also," be the one God had chosen for Isaac (24:12–14).

Before he had even finished praying, a young woman named **Rebekah** came out with her **pitcher**, a big water jar, on her shoulder (24:15). She went down to the well, filled her pitcher and came up (24:16). The servant ran to meet her and said, "Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher." Rebekah said, "Drink, my lord," and she hurried to give him a drink (24:17–18).


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*The story continues:* **Read Genesis 24:19 from your Bible:** "I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking." Say: "Nobody asked her to water the camels. She offered!" Ten thirsty camels drink a lot of water. Rebekah hurried and emptied her pitcher into the **trough**, a long box that animals drink from. Then she ran back to the well again and again, and she drew water for all his camels (24:20)! The servant watched her quietly, wondering if God had answered his prayer (24:21).

When the camels were done drinking, the servant gave her gifts of gold. He asked whose daughter she was. She was from Abraham's own family (24:22–24)! Then the servant bowed his head and worshiped the LORD. He said, "I being in the way, the LORD led me" (24:26–27). God had answered his prayer.

Rebekah ran home and told her family. Her brother **Laban** ran out to the well and brought the servant home (24:28–31). The servant told them everything, and they said, "The thing proceedeth from the LORD" (24:50), which means, "God did this." Then they asked Rebekah, "Wilt thou go with this man?" And she said, **"I will go"** (24:58).

Rebekah rode a camel all the way back (24:61). Isaac was out in a field in the evening, and he saw the camels coming (24:63). Rebekah became Isaac's wife, and he loved her (24:67).

## 3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. What did Abraham's servant do when he got to the well? *(He prayed, Genesis 24:12–14)*
2. Who came out before he had finished praying? *(Rebekah, with her pitcher on her shoulder, 24:15)*
3. What did Rebekah offer to do that nobody asked her to do? *(Water all the camels, 24:19)*
4. How many camels did the servant have? *(Ten, 24:10)*
5. What did Rebekah say when they asked, "Wilt thou go with this man?" *("I will go," 24:58)*

## 4. Memory verse: Fill the Trough (5 minutes)

Tape the 4 strips up in order: *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.* 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 together. Then take one strip away and read it again. Keep taking strips away, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.


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## 5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Rebekah was kind, even more than she was asked, and God used her kindness to answer a prayer. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4)."
*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:** when someone asks you to help, do it, and then do one more kind thing that nobody asked for.

## 6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Rebekah word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/rebekah-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/rebekah-craft), or **Ten Camels:** ten children are the camels and kneel down in a row (24:11). One child is Rebekah. She walks down the row and "gives" each camel a drink from a paper cup while everyone counts out loud, one to ten. Then a new child is Rebekah. Ask a question from part 3 each time.

## 7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You hear our prayers. Help us be kind like Rebekah, and do even more than we are asked. Lead us in Your way, like You led Abraham's servant. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

**If a child asks the servant's name:** Genesis 24 doesn't tell us. The Bible calls him Abraham's servant, so we do too.


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