

Reading: Chapter 24

In our last lesson we learn't how Abraham, when he was old, left Ur of the Chaldees to go into the land which God had promised him. We also learn't how Abraham and Sarah had a son called Isaac. Isaac is now grown up, so Abraham must be very old now and Sarah had died, how sad Abraham and Isaac must have been. Abraham wanted Isaac to find a wife, but he couldn't find a wife in the land in which he lived, as all the people worshipped idols. Do you know why Isaac could not marry anybody who worshipped idols. Because, they did not love and obey God.

So Abraham knew that there was a place where Isaac could find a wife and that was his old country, but Abraham could not let Isaac go back to his old country, for Isaac must stay in the land God had promised to Abraham.

So Isaac's wife was not chosen by Abraham but by the one who knows all about us, God. If God chooses for us it is sure to be right. So who would Abraham send on this long journey? He could not go himself, he was very old and would not leave the land God had told him to dwell in. Abraham chose his oldest and most important servant: we are told that the chief servant was at one time Eliezer of Damascus, but we cannot be sure.

The servant prepared for his journey, he took 10 camels, what a lot that was: why would he need so many? He would need food and water and lovely presents for the wife he hoped to find and for her family.

When the servant arrived at the well of Nahor outside the city. He must often have seen Abraham pray to God and, as a member of his household, had learned to pray too. So he prayed to God for help to find a wife for Isaac. God is always willing to help when we are trying to do the right thing, but he will never help us to do wrong. We will never fear if we trust Him to guide us.

While he was praying beside the well women came to draw water from the well and one called Rebekah "we are told was fair to look upon" gave Abraham's servant some water to drink after his long journey and also watered his camels. The servant asked her whose daughter was she and she answered the daughter of Bethuel and Rebekah took the servant to her father's house. The servant said that he was looking for a wife for his Master's son and so Bethuel could not find anything wrong with what the servant had asked. So Bethuel told the servant to take Rebekah to his Master's son to be his wife. The servant gave presents to Rebekah's family. Rebekah was very willing to go with the servant so they journeyed back to where Abraham and Isaac lived.

Isaac was walking in the fields a few days later when he looked up and saw the travellers coming, Rebekah saw him too, and asked the servant who he was. He said it is my Master. Rebekah jumped from the camel and Isaac came to meet her, and she covered her

face with a veil and Isaac took Rebekah into his mother's tent and she became his wife; and he loved her and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death. Isaac and Rebekah loved each other very much. God knew that Rebekah would be the right wife for Isaac.

Point to remember: We should choose very carefully our friends, and when we grow up to choose our husbands and wives from those who love God.