# THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY

## CHILDREN’S MEETING LESSON

# DATE: December 18, 2016

**SUBJECT:** **GOD’S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: God Called Isaac (1) - A Bride for Isaac**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 24:1-67

**AIM:** To show the children that God will take care of all our needs and we just need to trust Him.

**MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM:** Matthew 6:33 (But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.); Matthew 6:34a (Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow,…); Isaiah 26:4a (Trust in Jehovah forever and ever,…); Psalms 37:4 (Delight yourself in Jehovah, And He will give you the requests of your heart); 1 Peter 5:7 (Casting all your anxiety on Him because it matters to Him concerning you).

**SUGGESTED SONGS:** 2827 (Good Morning Lord Jesus); 146 (I Want the Lord to Have the First Place); 32 (Trust in the Lord); 22 (Faith, Mighty Faith); 5208 (Oh, Get ready! Evening Shadows Fall - Hymn 1318 verses 1 & 2); 3422 (I Will Trust in God’s Word); 6732 (Trust and Obey – Hymn #582, verses 1 & 5); 197 (Why Not I?); 5505 (Pray, Pray, Pray – Sing to the Lord #102)

**CRAFT IDEAS:** (1) Make a paper camel out of sturdy paper or foam, and use two wooden clothespins as the legs for the camel. (2) Make a 3-D water well using construction paper, and use a bendable straw for turning a pitcher to draw from the well.

**CONTENT:** After Abraham’s wife Sarah died, Abraham and Isaac mourned for her. By this time, Isaac was a grown man. Abraham was now quite old and he was concerned that his son Isaac needed a wife. But Abraham did not want Isaac to marry someone who did not worship God. So Abraham spoke to his oldest servant and made him swear an oath that he would not take a wife for Isaac from the daughters of the Canaanites. Instead, Abraham sent his trusted servant Eliezer to his country and to his relatives to find a wife for Isaac.

The servant took ten camels along with all kinds of good things, and departed and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor. The servant brought the camels to a well of water at evening time, at the time when the women of the city went out to draw water. It was here that the servant prayed to the Lord. He prayed that God would show kindness to his master Abraham. Specifically, Eliezer prayed that when he asks one of the women at the well, “please put down your pitcher that I may drink,” she would say, “Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink.” This would be a sign from God that this was the woman God had chosen for Isaac. Before he had finished his prayer, Rebekah came walking with her pitcher on her shoulder. She was very beautiful. She went down to the spring and filled up her pitcher. The servant ran to meet her and said, please let me sip a little water from your pitcher. Then she said, “drink, my lord.” After she finished giving him a drink she said, “I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking.” Eliezer watched her silently as she served all of the camels. Then he took out a golden nose-ring and two gold bracelets for her and asked whose daughter she was and if there was room in her father’s house to lodge. Rebekah told the servant that she was the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah and Nahor. Eliezer realized that these were Abraham’s relatives.

God had answered the servant’s prayer. The young woman had answered exactly as he had asked the Lord, and the Lord had led him to his master’s family! He told Rebekah that the Jehovah, the God of his master Abraham had led him to the house of his master’s brothers.

Rebekah returned home and told her mother’s house about the man at the well (spring) and what he had said. When her brother Laban heard this and saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister’s hands, he ran to meet the man at the spring where he was waiting. Laban said, “Come O blessed of Jehovah.” He brought Eliezer and the camels to his home, gave the camels food and fodder and gave Eliezer and the men with him water to wash their feet and set food before them to eat. Eliezer would not eat before explaining why he had come on the journey.

Eliezer explained that he was Abraham’s servant. He told them how the Lord had blessed Abraham with flocks and herds, with silver and gold. He told them that Abraham had given all the he has to his only son Isaac. Now that it is time for Isaac to marry, Abraham had sent his servant to his kinsmen’s country to seek a wife for Isaac. He told them about the prayer he had prayed to God asking for a sign, that when he would ask a young woman for a drink she would say, “drink and I will also draw water for your camels.” He told them that Rebekah had spoken those exact words.

Rebekah’s father Bethuel and her brother Laban said that this must be from Jehovah. They gave permission for her to go and become Isaac’s wife. When they asked Rebekah if she would go with the servant, she answered, “I will go.” She willingly left home and followed the servant.

When the servant and Rebekah came back to Canaan, Isaac was in the field meditating in the field toward evening. He lifted up his eyes and saw the camels coming. When Rebekah lifted up her eyes and saw Isaac, she sprang off the camel. She asked the servant who the man was that was walking toward them. When he told her it was his master, she took a veil and covered herself. Then the servant told Isaac how the Lord had led him to Rebekah. She became Isaac’s wife, and he loved her and was comforted after the death of his mother.

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:** *Please do not feel obligated to cover all the applications, but pray and fellowship over which ones are appropriate for your age group.*

* **We can fully trust God to lead us and take care of us**. Isaac was blessed because he trusted the Lord in everything, even in finding a wife for him. God provided the best for him. We do not need to be anxious concerning our daily or future needs. We should be like Isaac, believing and trusting God and patiently waiting in prayer for God’s best. We should also be like Abraham’s servant Eliezer, who first prayed to God before setting out to accomplish his master’s request. He trusted God to lead him, to grant his master’s request and prayed in a very specific way concerning Isaac’s wife. Even at a young age, we sometimes worry about the future: what if something happens to my parents, will I do well on my test, will I have friends in my new school? We need to see that the Lord cares for us and He will never leave nor forsake us (Joshua 1:5; Matthew 28:20b). Just as Abraham, with the servant’s help, took care of Isaac’s needs, the Lord provides all our needs through our parents and other people.
* **God is always ready to listen to our prayers and answer them in the best way.** The Lord is with us and He is always ready to listen, to hear and to answer us when we talk to Him in prayer. He is truly a friend we can talk to whenever we have a need. We should also be those who talk to the Lord even when we do not have a need. We can always tell Him our joys and how much we love Him. The children can write down specific prayer requests and other things they would like to tell the Lord.
* **We should be obedient to God’s word**. In prior lessons, we saw that Abraham trusted and obeyed God. Abraham’s servant also trusted God and obeyed his master’s wish not to take a wife for his son Isaac from the idol worshipping Canaanites, but from his own kindred and country. We should obey our parents and trust that they know best. Sometimes we may think we know better than our parents, but God gave us our parents, and we need to obey and honor them. For example, if our parents ask us to get ready for school, do our homework, or get dressed to go to the church meeting, we should obey and act according to their specific instructions.
* **We should be steadfast, enduring, and able to bear the pressure of work.** Rebekah expressed these traits as she watered Eliezer and the 10 camels. A thirsty camel can drink 30 gallons in 13 minutes. It was hard work for a young woman to draw water from a well with a pitcher and pour it into a trough for 10 camels. (We can ask the children to try carrying one gallon water jugs as an illustration.) Rebekah completed her work diligently and with kindness. The children can be encouraged to develop these traits in their schoolwork and housework.
* **We should be modest in our dress.** When Rebekah got off the camel and found out that the man approaching was Isaac, she covered herself with her veil. This was the customary way for a female to show modesty. We should guard against today’s trend for both males and females to be uncovered in their dress.

Adapted from the Church in New York City’s Children’s Meeting lessons: 1/09/94; 12/26/99; 12/18/05; 12/25/11