WEEK 1

Isaac and Rebekah

Big Idea: God is with me. He helps me to be kind.

Memory Verse
***"Blessed be the Lord, for He has shown me His marvelous kindness"* (Psalm 31:21).**

Word of the Week
"Kindness" - Kindness is love in action. When you are kind, you are helpful and friendly to others. We can show kindness with caring words, listening ears, willing feet, and helpful hands.

This week's lesson
is based on **Genesis 24**, **25** and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 171–182.

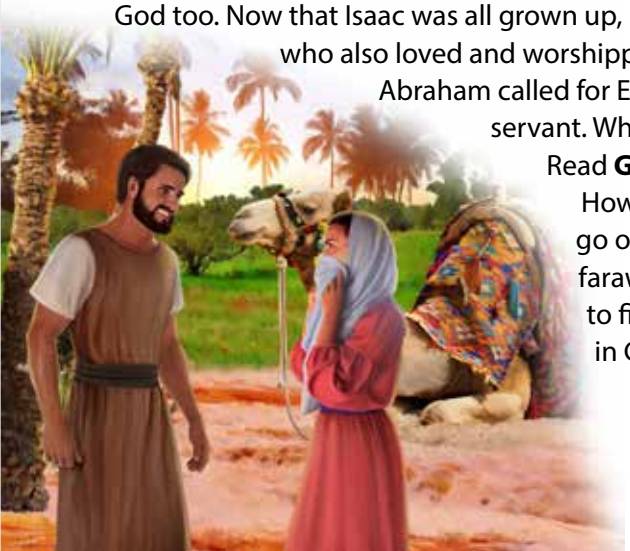
Sunday

An Important Decision

Abraham walked slowly toward the door and stepped outside his tent into the fresh air and warm sunshine. He leaned on his walking stick. In the distance he could see his olive trees and golden fields of grain. Beside them were his green fields filled with fat, woolly sheep. Abraham smiled. God had been so kind and generous. He had given Abraham a family, land, food, money, and more sheep and cows than he could count. But Abraham's best gift was God's friendship. Abraham was so happy to be called a "friend of God" (James 2:23).

Abraham loved to tell others about his Friend, the one true God. But in the nearby towns in Canaan, people didn't believe in God. Instead they prayed to wooden idols that couldn't see or hear. These idols definitely couldn't show love or kindness to others.

Abraham had taught his son Isaac about the one true God. Isaac loved God too. Now that Isaac was all grown up, it was time to find him a wife who also loved and worshipped the God of heaven.



Abraham called for Eliezer, his most trusted servant. What did he ask Eliezer to do? Read **Genesis 24:4**.

How exciting! Eliezer was to go on a big trip to Abraham's faraway family. There, Eliezer was to find Isaac a wife who believed in God and lived for Him.

I Wonder

» What kind gifts has God given to your family?

» How do you know that God is your Friend?

Prayer Idea
Thank Jesus for being our kind Friend who loves to give us good gifts.

Do
Make kindness soup together to give to someone who is hungry, alone, or sick. Choose your favorite recipe. As each ingredient is added, talk about one kind thing (blessing) that God has given to your family and say your memory verse to encourage them. Deliver the soup.

Monday

Trusting God

Eliezer was in a hurry! He counted . . . 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Yes, that should be enough camels. Quickly he led them out of the stables and lined them up. Abraham had just given him a very important job, and Eliezer didn't want to waste a second. He must find the right wife for Isaac!

Eliezer quickly packed his bags. He mustn't forget gifts. It would be kind to give Isaac's future wife some presents. The camels' sacks jingled and jangled with gold, silver, and other treasures as he set off down the road. It would be a long journey. But he knew God would lead him.

After many days of travel, Eliezer finally saw the tall stone walls of the city where Abraham's family lived. At last he had arrived!

"He made the camels kneel down at the well outside the city" (Genesis 24:11, ICB). It was a perfect place to rest after such a long trip. Eliezer didn't know anyone in this town. How would he find the best wife for Isaac? The Bible tells us he dropped to his knees and prayed, "O Lord God . . . please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham" (Genesis 24:12).

Then he prayed for a sign to help him know whom God had chosen. What was the sign? Read **Genesis 24:13, 14**.

Abraham's family always fed visitors and showed kindness to strangers. Had God chosen someone like this for Isaac? He would trust God and see—very soon!

I Wonder

» Why did Eliezer pray before doing anything else in this new town?

» What can you do when you need help doing something new?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that we can trust Him to always help us.

Do

Make a card to give to someone who's new to your play group, school, or Sabbath School. Think of other ways you can show them kindness.

Memory Verse





Tuesday

A Prayer Answered

Before Eliezer had even finished his prayer, a lovely woman appeared. She had walked from the city to the well and started to fill her water jar. Eliezer saw that she was very beautiful. She was also kind to the other women at the well.

The Bible tells us he ran to her and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher" (Genesis 24:17). Rebekah gave a big welcoming smile and lowered the jar from her shoulder. "Drink, my lord," she answered kindly as she poured him some water (Genesis 24:18).

When he had finished drinking, what did Rebekah say and do? Read **Genesis 24:19, 20**.

Camels can be very thirsty animals. And Eliezer had 10 camels! They would have needed enough water to fill two or three large bathtubs. That's a lot of jars of water! That's a lot of running back and forth. What kindness Rebekah showed.

Eliezer gave her a big thank you and gifts of gold. He asked her, "Who is your father?" Rebekah said, "My father is Bethuel. He is the son of Milchah and Nahor" (Genesis 24:23, 24, ICB).

Eliezer was amazed. Nahor was Abraham's brother, which meant that Rebekah was Abraham's relative!

What did Eliezer do next? Read **Genesis 24:26**.

Rebekah had used her hands and feet to care for a stranger. She had shown God's kindness in a very helpful way. God had used this kindness to lead Eliezer right to her!

I Wonder

» How do you think Rebekah felt after she had finished giving water to the camels?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you show His lovingkindness, even when it's hard work.

Do

Give each family member a cup of water—but not to drink. Invite each person to use their cup of water to show kindness. For example: to clean or cook with; as a drink for a person or a plant.

Memory Verse



Wednesday

A Match Made in Heaven

Rebekah had never run so fast. Racing through the doors of her home, she breathlessly told her family what had just happened at the well. God had led Eliezer right to her!

Rebekah's family welcomed Eliezer into their home. They kindly looked after his camels, washed his dirty feet, and prepared dinner for him. Then Eliezer told the family about his prayer for help and wisdom. He explained that Rebekah's kindness was the answer to his prayer.

Everyone was amazed. They all agreed that God had chosen Rebekah to marry Isaac. "This is clearly from the Lord," her father and uncle said with a smile (Genesis 24:50, ICB).

Turning to Rebekah her family asked, "Do you want to go with this man now?" (Genesis 24:58, ICB). What was Rebekah's answer? Read the rest of **Genesis 24:58**.

Many days later, in the land of Canaan, Isaac walked slowly through a field under the early evening stars. He thought and prayed as he walked. Suddenly he saw 10 camels up ahead. It must be Eliezer, back from his special trip!

Rebekah's heart fluttered as she watched Isaac coming near. This was the man God had chosen to be her husband! She climbed off the camel and pulled a veil over her face, like a bride on her wedding day.

Eliezer introduced them. He told Isaac that God had chosen this kind and thoughtful woman to be his wife. What a wonderful God! Isaac married Rebekah "and he loved her" (Genesis 24:67).

I Wonder

» Why did Rebekah leave her family and go with Eliezer?

Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to help you trust His goodness and do whatever He asks you to do.

Do

Make a wedding gift for Isaac and Rebekah. You might make flowers from muffin papers with pipe cleaner stems, shape an animal from clay/dough, or make a useful tool.

Memory Verse

Thursday

Double Blessing

Rebekah frowned as she looked down at her big, round tummy. *Kick. Kick. Thud. Kick. Wobble. Thud. What is this baby doing? It will not stop moving!*

Rebekah had waited 20 years for a baby. Isaac had asked God for help, and "The Lord heard Isaac's prayer, and Rebekah became pregnant" (Genesis 25:21, ICB).

She smiled as she felt another surprising kick in her side. God had shown such great lovingkindness. Their family was finally growing!

But the bigger her tummy grew, the bigger the kicks became. She felt as though there was an endless battle going on inside her! *"If all is well, why am I like this?"* she thought to herself (Genesis 25:22).

Rebekah talked to God about it. What did God tell her? Read **Genesis 25:23**.

She was having not one but two babies! Twins! And already those two babies weren't getting along very happily. No wonder it felt like a wrestling competition in her tummy!

Finally the day arrived for Rebekah to give birth. The first baby born was covered in thick red hair. They named him Esau. His brother quickly followed, holding tightly onto Esau's heel. They named him Jacob.

Rebekah and Isaac were so happy! They'd asked God for a child of their own, and He had given them two.

Like Rebekah and Isaac, your family has been given a precious gift from God: you! Your church family is grateful for you too. Let's say these words from the Bible, "How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God!" (Psalm 36:7).

I Wonder

» Why do you think Rebekah talked to God about the kicking inside of her?

» What is the most special gift God has given you?

Prayer Idea

Thank You, God, for our lives and for Your great love.

Do

Take out your baby photos and look through them with your family. Remember you are a precious gift from God.

Memory Verse

Parent Faith Talk

» Share with your children a time you experienced the kindness of God in your life.

» Share a time you were able to show the kindness of God to someone else and the difference it made.





Friday

The Stew Swap

Jacob dropped the potatoes, lentils, and carrots into the stew. *Mmm. Yummy!* His twin brother Esau smelled the stew and his tummy grumbled. He had been out hunting all day. He was so tired and was so very hungry! "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary," he begged his brother (Genesis 25:30).

Many years had passed since God had told Rebekah about her very different babies. Now they had become very different young men. Jacob was quiet and gentle; Esau was loud and rough. Jacob planned ahead; Esau acted without thinking. Jacob spent his time helping at home and caring for the sheep; Esau liked to go on exciting hunting adventures in the mountains. God had made them both. He loved them both.

Jacob looked up from his stew to his hungry brother. Being the oldest Esau had been promised something that Jacob wanted: the birthright. The birthright meant that Esau would become God's leader for their family. One day he would be given most of the family's land and belongings.

Jacob really wanted Esau's birthright. Instead of showing kindness and giving him stew, Jacob suggested a sneaky swap. "Jacob said, 'Sell me your birthright' " (Genesis 25:31). The birthright for a bowl of stew? What would he do? Read **Genesis 25:32, 33**.

Without thinking or caring about the birthright, Esau promised Jacob he could have it all.

I Wonder

» Do you think Jacob showed kindness? What should he have done?

» Do you think Esau did the right thing? Why or why not?

Prayer Idea

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you His heart so we can show His kindness, even when it is sometimes hard.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Have each member of the family draw a picture of a time someone has shown them kindness. Share the pictures and glue them into your family journal.

For You, Parents

"The members of the family do not all have the same stamp of character, and there will be frequent occasion for the exercise of patience and forbearance; but through love and self-discipline all may be bound together in the closest union" (Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 176).

A Box of Kindness

A heavy white cardboard box arrived at a Seventh-day Adventist mission school in the Marshall Islands. It was from Grandpa Bob and was for the missionary families that worked at the school.

When Father and Mother saw the box, they couldn't wait to open it! Big brothers Raijan and Jehuraian and little sister Jaira couldn't wait either! The family gathered in the living room around the parcel.

"This box is a blessing from God," Father said. "Let's thank God now." Together the family knelt down, and Father prayed.

"Heavenly Father, we are thankful for this blessing that just arrived. Help us to bless others through the blessing that we have received. Thank You for Grandpa Bob and his kindness. Please bless him. Amen."

With Father's approval, Raijan grabbed a pair of scissors and tore open the box.

Grandpa Bob had been sending their family boxes for three years because he wanted to show God's kindness and love. The boxes would often come just when food was running out, when Father or Mother needed some encouragement, or when a child had a birthday.

"Oh, wow!" Raijan cried as he looked into the box and saw a toy car. "A yellow car!"

Juhuraian reached his hand into the box. "And a blue one!" he shouted.

Jaira couldn't stop smiling. Her eyes were fixed on a doll. "My very own doll!" she said.

Mother and Father looked through the rest of the box and found chocolates, notebooks, pencils, red rice, nuts, and instant mashed potatoes. These would be wonderful to share with the student missionaries teaching at the school.

What a wonderful gift! Every time a box arrived, the children would jump for joy. The family always prayed before opening a box, saying, "Thank You, God, for showing Your love and kindness to us through our Grandpa Bob."

The Bible says, "Blessed be the Lord, for He has shown me His marvelous kindness" (Psalm 31:21).



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