

8. Isaac Get Married

Introduction: In the previous story we heard about how God tested Abraham, asking him to sacrifice his only son to Him. Abraham obeyed God, and prepared to sacrifice his son to God. However, God did not actually want to take his son away. It was because of Abraham's faith in God that God decided to bless him and his descendants. (Genesis 22:1, 16–18)

As Abraham was getting very old, he told one of his old servants, "I want to make a promise with you in front of God, that no matter what, you will not let my son Isaac take a Canaanite woman as his wife. I want you to go back to my hometown where my relatives are and find a wife for Isaac." (Genesis 24:1–4)

The old servant asked him, "If that woman does not want to come back with me, would that mean I have to take Isaac back to your hometown?" (Genesis 24:5) Abraham said, "Do not take him back. When God asked me to leave my hometown, He promised that He would give this land of Canaan to my descendants. You will find a wife for him over there. God must have prepared someone in advance. If that girl does not want to come back here with you, then you are no longer bound to this promise. But no matter what, you are not to take Isaac back there." (Genesis 24:7–8)

So the old servant took ten camels, some money, gold and silver and headed out to Abraham's hometown. (Genesis 24:10)

When he arrived at a well outside the hometown village, the old servant prayed, "God! God of my master, please treat my master well. Let me finish this task today. I am here next to this well. A lot of girls will be coming to get water. I will ask one of them, 'Can you give me some water to drink?' If the girl says, 'Yes, you can drink, and I will get some water for your camels to drink, as well.', then this will be a sign from you, God, that you have prepared her for Isaac." (Genesis 24:12–14)

Before he finished his sentence, a beautiful girl came to get water. (Genesis 24:15) The old servant walked up to that girl, and asked, "Can I have some water to drink?" (Genesis 24:17) The girl said, "Yes, you can drink and I will get some water for your camels to drink as well." (Genesis 24:18–19) The old servant was very surprised and wanted to know if this was God's arrangement. He asked this girl, "To which family do you belong? Does your father's house have a place for me to sleep for a night?" (Genesis 24:21, 23)

The old servant learned that this girl really was Abraham's relative, and that this girl's father would let him sleep in their home for the night. (Genesis 11:29; 24:24–25)

He immediately bowed down to worship God and to give thanks for God's provision. (Genesis 24:26–27) When they came to the girl's house he met her father and brother. He told them how God had been leading him, and that he came at his master, Abraham's, request to find a wife for his son Isaac. (Genesis 24:33–48)

When the girl's father and her brother learned of this, they knew this was God's arrangement. They were willing to let the daughter go with old servant, to be Isaac's wife. And the girl herself was also willing to go. (Genesis 24:50–51, 58)

On the following day, the family gave the daughter their blessing. She brought with her an old lady servant who has been serving her since she was a baby, and a few servant girls. They all went with the old servant and began the journey back to the master, Abraham's home. (Genesis 24:59–61)

It was getting dark; Isaac was walking on a ridge between fields, when he saw the old servant bringing back all these people and the girl. (Genesis 24:66)

The old servant told Isaac all that had happened. Isaac then took the girl as his wife, and he loved her very much. (Genesis 24:67)