

DAY SIX - ISAAC

To do today: Color ornament #3, read the following story and choose which activities you would like to do.

Rebecca at the Well

Abraham was now getting old; he wanted to see Isaac married before his death. But as the women of Chanaan did not believe in the One True God, he called Eliezer, one of his servants, and said: "Go to my people in my own country and there choose a wife for my son Isaac." Eliezer took ten camels and many rich presents and started out for Haran, Abraham's early home. When he arrived before the city, it was evening, and he stopped to rest at a well where the women came to get water. Here Eliezer prayed: "O Lord, show kindness to my master Abraham. I stand near the spring where the daughters of this city will come to draw water. I shall say to a maid: "Let down your pitcher that I may drink." And if she shall answer, 'Drink, I will give your camels to drink also,' I shall understand that she is the one whom You have chosen as the wife of Isaac."

Hardly had he said these words, when a beautiful girl came with a pitcher on her shoulder. She went down to the well to fill her pitcher, and when she was coming back, Eliezer stopped her and said: "Give me a little water to drink from your pitcher." She answered: "Drink, my Lord." And she quickly let down the pitcher on her arm and gave him to drink. When he had drunk, she said: "I will draw water for your camels also, until they all have to drink." Eliezer watched her without speaking, and wondered whether the Lord had heard his prayer. When the camels had all drunk their fill, Eliezer gave the girl golden earrings and rich bracelets and asked her: "Whose daughter are you? And tell me, is there any room in your father's house to stay overnight?" She answered: "I am Rebecca, the daughter of Bathuel, who is a son of Nachor. We have a good store of both hay and straw and a large place in which to sleep." Eliezer bowed down his head and prayed: "Blessed be the Lord God of my master Abraham, who brought me straight into the house of my master's brother." In the meantime Rebecca ran home and told her mother all that had happened.

Now Rebecca had a brother named Laban who, when he had heard all that she told them, went out quickly to the well and said to Eliezer: "Come in, blessed of the Lord. I have prepared the house for you, and also a place for the camels." And he brought

Eliezer into the house and set food before him. But the servant said: "I will not eat until I have given you my message." Laban answered: "Speak." Then Eliezer told them about Abraham and his great riches, and how his master had sent him to find a wife for Isaac among the people of his own country. He also told them how he had prayed to God to show him who was to be the wife of Isaac, and how his prayer was answered when Rebecca came to the well. 26 When Laban and Bathuel had heard these words they said: "This is the word of the Lord. We cannot do anything better than to please Him. Rebecca stands before you. Take her and go your way, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has spoken." Eliezer thanked the Lord, and gave them all rich presents. The next morning Eliezer said: "Let me depart, that I may go to my master." And they said: "Let us call the maid and ask her will." They called her, and when she had come, they said "Will you go with this man?" She said: "I will go." So Eliezer and Rebecca started on their way to Chanaan. There Rebecca became the wife of Isaac, who loved her very much.

Abraham lived to be one hundred and seventy-five years old. When he died, Isaac buried him beside his wife Sara, who had died some time before.

Other stories you might like to read if time permits:

From: Bible Stories for Children by a Catholic Teacher

"Rebecca at the Well", pg. 17

From: Anecdotes and Examples by Rev. Francis Spirago

"God Defends the Right" pg. 358

"Francis I After the Battle of Lepanto", pg. 359

"The Gratitude of Dogs", pg. 359

Coordinating Bible Verses: Genesis 22: 1-14

Now see whether you can answer the following questions:

1.) Why did Abraham not want Isaac to have a wife from Chanaan?

2.) How did Eliezer find out whom God had chosen for Isaac?

3.) Who came to the well for water?

4.) Who was Rebecca's father?

5.) Who was Rebecca's brother?

6.) When did Eliezer and Rebecca start for Chanaan?

7.) How old was Abraham when he died?

Read the story over again and find out for what Eliezer prayed the first time. Did God hear his prayer? Why did he pray a second time?

Learn the following hymn:

Jesus, teach me how to pray,
Suffer not my thoughts to stray,
Send distractions far away,
Sweet, Holy Child!
Let me not be rude or wild,
Make me humble, meek and mild,
Pure as angels undefiled,
Sweet, Holy Child!

Copy the following Scripture text into your character book: To Thee, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul. In Thee, O my God, I put my trust; let me not be ashamed (Ps. 24. 2).

