



GOD CALLED OUR FATHERS

UNIT TWO: Isaac, Jacob, Joseph

Lesson 1: A Bride for Isaac

CONTENT:

1. Abraham gave his servant a difficult task: He was to go to Abraham's native place and find a bride for Isaac from among his relatives.
2. The servant promised to do the task. He took camels and gifts of jewellery and set off. At the well outside the town, he prayed for God's help to find the right girl. Immediately he saw Rebekah, who drew water for him and his camels. She turned out to be from Abraham's family and was willing to go back with him and marry Isaac.
-  3. Jesus also worked for many years as a carpenter. Even as a boy, he helped his foster father Joseph in his workshop. God wants everyone to work.
-  4. Sometimes we find work tiring, difficult, boring, but if we do it with Jesus and for him, we will become holy. Like Abraham's servant, we must pray and ask God to help us. Saint Joseph is the special saint who helps us do our work.

ASSIGNMENT: Write down what jobs you do at home, and what jobs you will start doing. Read the handout at home.

REFERENCES: Genesis 24:1-67. CCC 533, 2427, 2834.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts, a large cloth duster.

CLASS PROJECT: Pick a job that the students can do in or near the school. Pray first, then do it together. E.g. Weeding the garden, dusting furniture, sweeping, sorting books etc.

I. STARTER: [Game]

Today we are going to hear about someone who had a job to do. 'Job' or 'task' means some work. [Write JOB, TASK, WORK on the blackboard.] Let's first play a quick game called 'Ask Task' We have to ask someone in the class to do a very quick job using this cloth. Each one, think of something different for that person to do. Count 10 slowly and they must finish the job by the time you count 10. I'll start:

TEACHER: Joel, please dust this table. One...two...three..[Joel dusts it, then hands the cloth to Benny]

JOEL: Benny please tie these chairs together. One... two... three...

BENNY: Mark, please untie the cloth. One...

[If the children are not able to think of tasks, give them suggestions: Wrap up these books; fan my face; clean the blackboard; shine my shoes etc.]

II. DEVELOPMENT: [Story: Finding a Bride for Isaac]

- We just saw that some tasks are easy and some are more difficult. Some we like to do and some we don't. But still, God wants all of us to do some kind of work.

Abraham once gave his servant a difficult task to do. Do you remember the name of Abraham's son? [Isaac] When Isaac grew up to be a man, Abraham realised that he had to get married. So Abraham called his oldest servant, the one who was in charge of everyone else. We'll call him Obed.

Abraham said to Obed, "My son Isaac is old enough to get married, but I don't want him to marry anyone from this land. Go to my country, and find a wife for Isaac from my family members. (Remember, when Abraham left his country he had many cousins, uncles and aunts!) Promise me you will go and bring the right girl back.

Obed was worried. He felt the task was a difficult one. He said, "I'm ready to go. But what if I can't find the right girl? And what if she doesn't want to come with me?"

Abraham said, "If the girl won't come, then it is alright. But go and try."

So Obed took some gifts with him: gold bangles and necklaces and nose-rings. He and some other servants set off with ten camels. After travelling for many days, they came to the town where

Abraham's relatives lived. They stopped outside the town near a well. It was evening time, and the women of the town started coming to the well to get water.

Obed thought, "This is a good place to find a bride for Isaac! But how do I know which one to ask?" Then he did a smart thing! He knelt down and prayed.

"Lord, you always helped my master Abraham. Now please help me to find the right girl for Isaac. Let the right one give me water and also give water to my camels."

Obed opened his eyes and saw a beautiful young girl coming from the well with a jar of water on her shoulder. Obed went up to her and said, "I am a traveller from far away. Please will you give me a little water to drink?"

The girl at once lowered her jar and poured water for him. Then she said, "I'll get some water for your camels also!" She quickly emptied her jar into the water trough (*a special place for animals to drink from*) and went up and down from the well till all the animals had drunk.

Obed watched without a word. He thought, "She is good as well as beautiful! Now let's see if she is really the right one!" He took out two gold bangles and a nose ring and gave them to the girl. He asked her, "Please tell me who you are. Whose daughter are you?"

The girl said, "My name is Rebekah. My father is Bethuel, the son of Nahor!"

When Obed heard this he bowed his head and thanked God, because these were Abraham's relatives. God had helped him find the right girl.

Rebekah took Obed home to meet her family. When they heard why he had come, they were willing to send Rebekah. She was also ready. Obed gave them all the gifts and jewellery he had brought with him and the very next day, Rebekah and her maids climbed onto the camels and set off.

As they came near Abraham's home, Rebekah looked up and saw a handsome young man walking in the fields. She asked Obed, "Who is that man?"

He answered, "That is my master, Isaac!" Isaac and Rebekah were married and were very happy.

Obed thanked God for helping him to do a difficult task.

[Give out handouts and read the top half of the page. The children colour the picture of Rebekah.]

Home assignment: Write down what jobs you do at home, or what you will start doing from today.

NEXT CLASS:

- What did Abraham ask Obed to do? *[To go to his country and find a bride for Isaac.]*
- Why was Obed worried? *[He didn't know if he would find the right girl, and if she would come back with him.]*
- How did he manage to find the right girl? *[By asking God for help.]*

Jesus also worked for many years as a carpenter. Even when he was a boy he would help his father in the workshop, sawing wood, hammering nails, sweeping the wood shavings, polishing the furniture. At home he helped his mother.

- God wants everyone to work. Sometimes we feel like working, sometimes we don't. Some people grumble and complain, "It's too difficult. It's not fair, why should I do it?" Some just dodge. If they hear Mummy calling, they hide! But some people are like Obed, and like Jesus. They cheerfully do the work they have to do and ask God to help them. What do they say?

[Look at the second half of the handout and read the words from the 'call-out'.]

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

What jobs do you do at home? Maybe you help daddy at his work, or with the marketing. *[Children share, then on the back of the handout, they draw themselves working.]*

- Close your eyes and ask God to help you to be a good worker just like Jesus. We can ask Saint Joseph to pray for us too. *[Children pray, then end by saying, 'Saint Joseph the Worker, pray for us!']*

Home assignment: Read the handout at home.