

Joyful Life Bible Studies

WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

REBEKAH

Lesson 3

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review last week's study of Sarah. What is the most important lesson you learned from either her strengths or weaknesses?
 - a. What difference has this made in your life this week?

2. This week we have chosen to study the life of Rebekah, focusing significant aspects of her unique story. (If you have time, read the complete record of her life in Genesis 24-28.) Acquaint yourself with Rebekah as you scan the following verses and record one observation you make about her:
 - a. Genesis 24:(1-14)15-31,50-67
 - b. Genesis 25: 20-28
 - c. Genesis 26: 1-12
 - d. Genesis 27:(1-4)5-17,41-46

3. Begin your lesson by writing a prayer asking the Lord to help you apply all that you learn from Rebekah's example. Include in your prayer any concerns you might have in relationship to your study.

*The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God
and is useful to teach us what is true
and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives.
It straightens us out and helps us do what is right
II Timothy 3:1 6 TLB*

SECOND DAY: Read Genesis 24:(1-9)10-31,50-67

1. Abraham sent his servant to seek a bride for his son, Isaac We meet Rebekah for the first time in Genesis 24:15 when she encountered Abraham's servant. Read Genesis 24:10-14 and describe the scene that sets the stage for her fascinating story.

a. In verse 14 notice the sign by which the servant would know the Lord's chosen woman. According to verse 15 what happened before he had finished speaking?

(1.) Why is this so remarkable?

2. Record what the following verses reveal about Rebekah:

a. Genesis 24: 16

b. Genesis 24:18-20

c. Genesis 24:25,28

d. Share your first impression of Rebekah.

3. Observe the sovereign hand of God as you see Rebekah's story unfold in Genesis 24:29-61. What is most interesting to you about the servant's visit with Rebekah's family?

a. Consider Rebekah's character as revealed in these verses. What qualifies do you see?

Advanced Students: Research the spiritual types found in Genesis 24 through the father sending his servant to seek a bride for his son. Write a brief report of your findings.

4. During the long and difficult 500-mile journey across the desert, Rebekah and the servant must have often conversed about her bridegroom. Describe what took place next in her incredible story from Genesis 24:62-67.
 - a. Try to imagine the thoughts and feelings that must have enveloped her and write them here.
 - b. What additional qualities do you observe about Rebekah in these verses?
5. Reflect on what you have learned today about Rebekah. How is she an example for you?

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD
plans to prosper you and not to harm you
plans to give you hope and a future.*
Jeremiah 29: 1 1 NIV

THIRD DAY: Read Genesis 25:20-28

1. We pick up the interesting story of Rebekah in Genesis 25:20,21. What is revealed about Rebekah and Isaac in these verses?
 - a. How did the Lord answer his prayer? verse 21b
 - b. Compare verse 20 and 26b and record the length of time Rebekah was barren.
2. Describe Rebekah's unusual pregnancy and delivery from Genesis 25:22-26.
 - a. According to verse 22 what did Rebekah do when she was perplexed about her pregnancy?
 - (1.) What explanation did the LORD give her in Genesis 25:23? See also Romans 9:(10)12.

(2.) Think of a time when you were distressed or anxious about something and you inquired of the Lord. Briefly share how He answered and met your need.

Challenge: Record the meaning of the twins' names.

3. Read Genesis 25:27,28 and tell what happened as the boys grew.
 - a. Why is showing favoritism for one child over another detrimental?
 - b. How can we avoid following Rebekah's example?

FOURTH DAY: Read Genesis 26:1-12

1. One experience that must have tested Rebekah's faith is recorded in Genesis 26:1-11. Give a brief account of this part of her story.
 - a. What stands out to you the most from this incident?
2. Isaac put Rebekah in a dangerous position even as his father Abraham had done with Sarah, Isaac's mother (Genesis 12;20). How did the Lord protect Rebekah?
3. Both Abraham and Isaac allowed fear to rob them of their faith. What instruction does Psalm 56:3,4 give to us when we are afraid?
 - a. There are many verses in the Bible about fear. Share one that is especially helpful to you.

FIFTH DAY: Read Genesis 27:(1-4)5-17,41-46

1. Approximately 37 years had passed between the events of Genesis 26 and Genesis 27. Consider Rebekah's role in one of the more familiar scenes in the Bible as you read Genesis 27:5-17. Identify the cast of characters and describe what part each one played as you recount this critical event in the life of Rebekah's family.

a. Each person in this scene exhibited character flaws, but our focus is on Rebekah. What weaknesses do you see in her as a:

(1.) wife

(2.) mother

(3.) woman of God

Challenge: Write a brief summary of the encounters between Isaac and Jacob in Genesis 27:18-29 and between Isaac and Esau in Genesis 27:30-40

2. Rebekah may have been trying to help God fulfill his promise concerning Jacob (Genesis 25:23). If we measured the success of her scheme by what happened between Isaac and Jacob, we would have to say it worked (Genesis 27:18-29). However, the consequences of Rebekah's manipulation brought more sorrow than joy. View this in Genesis 27:41-46. Record what you see.

a. Jacob did flee to Haran and was gone for 20 years and Rebekah died before he returned. According to verses 44,45 how different is this from what she expected?

b. What lesson is there in this for us?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. In a single day Rebekah's life was changed forever when she met the servant by the well. Share how this speaks to you today.

2. Reflect on the character of the Lord revealed through your study this week. What ministers to you the most?

3. Record a way your lesson has:
 - a. blessed you

 - b. warned you

 - c. encouraged you

4. How is Rebekah both a positive and a negative role model for us?

5. What can you apply to your own life from Rebekah's example? Be specific.

*You, Lord: are faithful - faithful and true,
faithful to love us.
You, Lord, are faithful, faithful and true.
-selected*