

Rebekah

Memory Verse: *He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD* (Prov. 18:22 NIV).

Background Helps:

We continue to study the wives of the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob). Rebekah, the wife of Isaac, is mentioned only once in the New Testament (Rom. 9:10, in connection with the doctrine of election), but her story includes a number of valuable life lessons.

Use your Bible timeline to keep your students oriented, placing Eve, Sarah, and now Rebekah in the proper sequence.

Lesson Helps:

Several alternative lesson plans:

1. A lesson geared for teens and young single adults: My aim is to teach my students about Rebekah's marriage to Isaac, so that they will seek good Christian mates for their own lives. This aim is based on Genesis 24, the story of Isaac's courtship (through Abraham's servant) and marriage to Rebekah. Here are some discussion questions (including some from the reading schedule) that should help you generate discussion:
 - a. What positive character traits do you see in Rebekah?
 - b. What qualities do you think are important in a prospective wife (or husband)?
 - c. Put yourself in Rebekah's shoes: How would you have felt about following Abraham's servant back to Canaan to marry Isaac? Why do you think she went?
 - d. Although our marriage customs differ somewhat from those in Rebekah's culture, what enduring principles for finding a life mate do you see in this story?

Take some time to pray for God's leading in each of your student's finding a future life partner. Incorporate the memory verse (Prov. 18:22) into this lesson.

2. A lesson geared for parents: My aim is to teach my students about Rebekah's parental favoritism toward Jacob, so that they will treat their children with impartiality. (Of course, both Isaac and Rebekah preferred one son over the other, but our lesson this week focuses on Rebekah.) This lesson is based on Genesis 26 and 27. Here are some possible discussion questions:
 - a. How did Rebekah and Isaac each show favoritism toward one of their sons?
 - b. What might have been a motive behind Rebekah's favoritism (see Gen. 26:19-28)? Why was this motive invalid?

- c. How did their practice of parental favoritism affect Rebekah and Isaac's marriage?
 - d. How might parents today show favoritism toward one or another of their children?
 - e. What were the negative results (both short-term and long-term) of parental favoritism on the family of Rebekah and Isaac?
 - f. How can we avoid playing favorites with our children?
 - g. How did God overrule the sinful parental favoritism in this story for good?
3. A lesson geared for children: My aim is to teach my students about Rebekah's (and Jacob's) deception of Isaac, so that they will always speak and practice the truth. This lesson is based on Genesis 27. Lying can be a strong temptation to children (and adults!), so this story can be used to help nip this tendency in the bud. Lesson suggestions:
- a. Act out the story, with Rebekah, Jacob, Isaac, and Esau playing their parts. Use cloth fragments for goatskins! Bring some tasty-smelling food from home!
 - b. Questions for discussion: What did Rebekah do wrong? What did Jacob do wrong? Why do you think they told these lies? What were the bad results of these lies in the life of this family? How did God turn even these evil actions into something good? (Tell the rest of the story.)
 - c. In a time of prayer, ask for God's help to always tell the truth. Use Colossians 3:9a (NIV) (or a similar verse) as your memory verse: "Do not lie to each other."
4. A more general lesson on the life of Rebekah: My aim is to teach my students about the life of Rebekah, so that they will become more like Christ as they advance in years. This lesson is based on Genesis 24:1–28:5. Possible discussion questions:
- a. Study Rebekah's character in Genesis 24 and 25:19-26. What outstanding qualities do you observe? What potential do you see in her?
 - b. Now study Rebekah's character in Genesis 25:28 and 27:1-17, 41-46. What faults do you see in her? How do you account for these apparent negative changes?
 - c. What role do you think Isaac played in these negative changes in Rebekah? (See, for example, Gen. 25:28; 26:1-11; and 27.) To what extent does Rebekah bear her own responsibility for her faults?
 - d. How can we ensure that we are growing to become more like Christ as we advance in years? How can we help our spouse to grow in Christ-likeness?
- Use 2 Peter 3:18a (NIV) as a memory verse: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Assignment:

-  Read about Rachel and Leah (Prominent Women of the Bible).
-  Memorize Psalm 127:3