

BIBLE LESSON # 11

Genesis 24

Abraham was growing old now and his son Isaac was taking over more and more of the work caring for the camels and sheep and cattle. Abraham could see how lonely Isaac was and he wanted to see Isaac happily married before he died. However the young women who lived in their area were all idol worshippers. They would have big festivals and party all night when they went to worship their images of stone or gold or silver. They would take food to these statues and dress them in fancy clothes and pray to the statues. Some of them would even kill their babies in order to please the wicked idol worshipping priests. God hated idol worship and Abraham didn't want this kind of wife for his son Isaac. Both Abraham and Isaac loved the true God and followed God's teachings and Isaac wanted a wife who would also love God and obey his ways.



One day Abraham received news from his relatives who lived far in the north in a town called Haran. He heard all about their jobs and their families and the kind of town they lived in. One piece of news made Abraham very happy. He learned that his brother had a son named Laban who was now the head of the household. Laban's sister was named Rebecca and she was just the right age to get married but so far had not found a bridegroom.

Abraham called his most trusted servant named Eliezar. Abraham told him, "I want you to go to my relatives who are living in Haran. You are to find a wife for Isaac among my relatives." This seemed like a hard job for Eliezar to do. He didn't even know who Abraham's relatives were and he asked, "What if I can't find a young woman who will be willing to travel all that distance?" Eliezar thought no woman would be willing to come to a foreign land in order to marry a complete stranger. Eliezar asked Abraham, "If the woman is unwilling to come back with me? Shall I take Isaac to Haran to find a wife?"

"No," Abraham answered. "This is the land God promised us, Isaac must not leave this land. God will be with you and will help you find a willing bride for my son."

Abraham had a lot of faith in God, didn't he? How would you like to go to a strange town and find a certain house and then ask the people in that house to give you their pet dog so you could take it far away with you? This is almost like what Abraham was asking Eliezar to do. Abraham believed in God and knew God would be with Eliezar and help him out. God will always help us out too if we pray to him and believe he will answer our prayers.

Early the next morning Eliezer began getting ready for his journey. He picked out ten of the fastest and best camels and Abraham brought him chests full of beautiful gifts of clothes, jewelery and silver and gold articles. Eliezer some of the servants were to go with him and once everything was loaded they started on their long journey.



It would have taken several days to reach the city of Haran. In the center of the city was a big well of water. Every day the women of the city would come to the well to get some water in jars and pots to take to their homes. No one had water faucets in their homes. There were no bathtubs or showers or sinks or any running water. The water they washed in, cooked with and drank all came from the jars of water the women would carry home. Some of them carried the water on their heads! How would you like to walk from the middle of town carrying a jar of water on your head?



Eliezer was worried, for he didn't know how he would ever find Abraham's relatives. When Eliezer reached the well he got off the camels and did a most important thing. Do you know what he did?

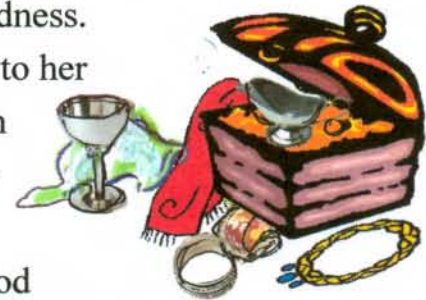
Eliezer knelt down on the ground and prayed to God for help. We should always remember that God is near us and can hear our prayers. Do you pray to God when you don't know what is best to do? It's a good thing to remember; we should always pray to God first before we make big decisions.

Eliezer prayed and said, "Please Lord, give me a sign; many young women of the city are coming out to draw water from the well. If I ask any of the young women for a drink from her jar of water and she gives me a drink and also says, "I'll water your camels too," let her be the one you have chosen for Isaac's bride." Eliezer probably thought he would have to ask many of the girls for a drink before he found the right one, but just as he looked up from praying, here came a beautiful girl. She put her jar deep into the well and pulling it up full of water. Eliezer approached the girls and asked, "Would you give me a drink of water, please?" The girl said, "Of course sir and here, let me water your camels also." This was the sign!!! Eliezer was filled with joy and amazement that God had answered his prayer so quickly. Eliezer asked what her name was. She told him her name was Rebekah and she was the granddaughter of Nahor. Eliezer was even more delighted, for Nahor was Abraham's brother! God had been very good to Eliezer and he quickly bowed to the ground and say a grateful prayer of thanks to God!

Rebekah told Eliezer that they had plenty of room at their home for him and his servants to spend the night, and they also had a place for the camels to stay. Eliezer got one of the packages off the camels, opened it up and gave Rebekah some beautiful bracelets of gold and other jewelry. Then Rebekah ran home and told her father and her brother Laban about the man she had met at the well. She showed them her gold jewelry and her brother Laban quickly ran to the well to welcome Abraham's servants and show them the way to their house.

That evening Laban ordered a big feast for Eliezer and the other servants. However, before he would sit down to eat, Eliezer wanted to tell Rebekah's father, mother and her brother why he had come so far. He told how rich Abraham had become and told about all the sheep and cattle and that Abraham had. He told how Isaac had been born when Abraham and Sarah were very old and how God had blessed Abraham. Isaac was to inherit all Abraham wealth, but Isaac didn't have a wife and he didn't want to marry one of the idol worshipping women who lived in their area. Then Eliezer told of his prayer to God and how quickly God had answered him when Rebekah had come to the well. She had offered to give him a drink and also to water his camels! Eliezer told them that he had come to take Rebekah home to be Isaac's bride if they were willing to let her go. After hearing how God had answered the prayer Rebekah's parents and brother answered, "This is from God, how could we go against what God has chosen? They asked Rebekah if she would go with Eliezer and she said "yes."

What excitement there was that evening. Eliezer took out all the rich gifts he had brought. There were beautiful clothes and jewelry of gold and silver which he gave to Rebekah's and to her family. They had a wonderful feast in celebration of God's kindness. That night Rebekah couldn't sleep. So many things had happened to her in such a short time. She wondered what it would be like to live in the land of Canaan. Would she miss her family? What would her husband, Isaac be like? Was he handsome, would he be kind? Would she like him and would he like her? This was scary, but God had made it happen, so Rebekah turned over and went to sleep, knowing that God would care for her, no matter what was to come.



The next morning Rebekah told her family goodbye and she and her maid rode off on the camels Eliezer had brought for her. Rebekah must have felt sad to leave her family, but excited to be going to a new home to meet her future husband.

How would you like to leave your home and family and travel to a far land to live with people you don't know? That would be very hard to do, wouldn't it? Rebekah must have been just a little afraid as she started out on her journey, but she trusted in God and believed God would protect her and be with her.

Your memory verse for this lesson tells how we also can trust God to care for us.

Psalms 56:3-4 "When I am afraid, I will trust in you."

This is verse 3, if you are very good at memory verses you can add verse 4 which says:

"In God whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?"

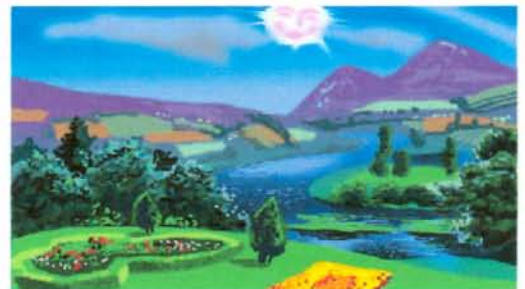
People might punch us or call us bad names to hurt our bodies or our feelings, but no one can take away God's love and protection and the promise of eternal life that God gives us. Regular old mortal men, women or kids might hurt us for a bit; God can give us life that will last forever and ever.

When you have learned your verse or verses put a check mark in the gold box.



Rebekah had never been so far away from home before. Everything she saw was new and different. They traveled past the tall, snow covered peaks of mountains, stopped to rest beside a blue lake, rode through green fields covered with wild flowers and over dry, rocky land dotted with fluffy white sheep and goats. They stopped by a river to water their camels and as they would sit having a lunch of cheese and bread and grapes, Rebekah would question Eliezer about Isaac and about her future home. Eliezer told her about the promises God had made to Abraham and how Isaac was a special son, promised by God. He told her that God had promised the land to Abraham and Isaac forever and explained how they would die but God promised to raise them to life again to live forever on this promised land.

While Eliezer and Rebekah were traveling toward home, Isaac was out working in the fields and helping his father Abraham. One evening after work, Isaac was out walking in the fields near home. He was wondering if Eliezer had been able to find their relatives and if there was a young woman who would be willing to come this long distance



to be his bride. Isaac also wondered what she would be like, would she be pretty? Would she be a good wife and love him? Most importantly would she love God like he did and be willing to raise their future children to love God also?

As Isaac was wondering about all this, suddenly he saw a cloud of dust in the distance...could this be Eliezer's camels? Isaac's heart began to beat faster as he hurried toward the road.

When Rebekah saw a man hurrying through the fields, she asked Eliezer.

"Who is that?" "That's my master's son, Isaac," Eliezer answered.

Rebekah quickly got off her camel and put a veil over her face. She walked toward Isaac with her eyes lowered. It was the custom in those days for the women to wear a veil when they met men who were strangers. Isaac hurried to meet Rebekah and taking her hands he smiled and welcomed her to his home.



That night there was a big feast and Abraham and Isaac listened to Eliezer as he told them all that had happened. They were amazed at how quickly God had answered Eliezer's prayer and so thankful that Rebekah was willing to travel so far to meet Isaac. It wasn't long before Isaac and Rebekah learned to love each other. Isaac would no longer be lonely, for he had a gentle wife and Rebekah would be happy, for she had a kind husband. They both thanked God for bringing them together in such a special way!

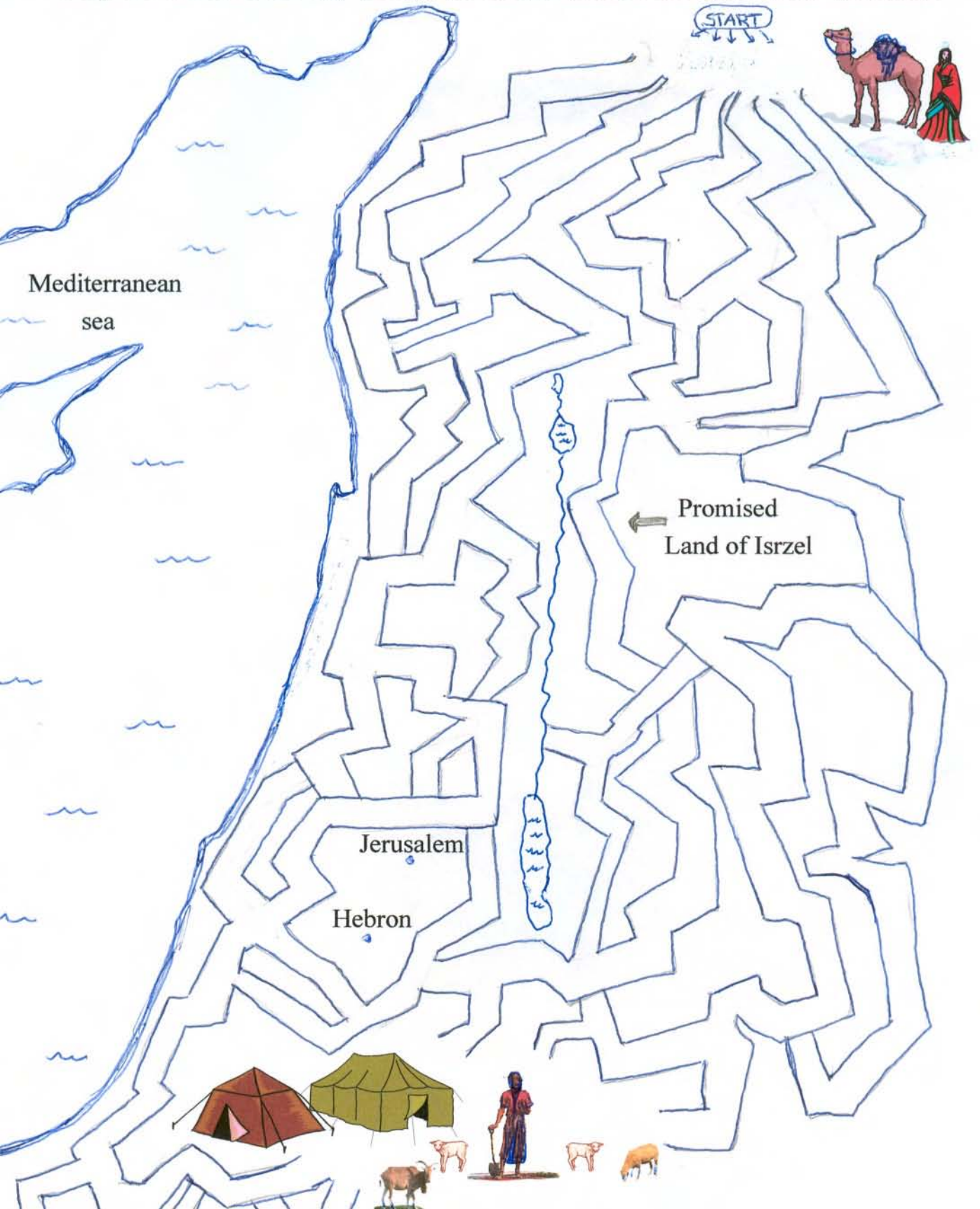
Draw a tent over Isaac and Rebekah and draw some sheep or camels outside the tent

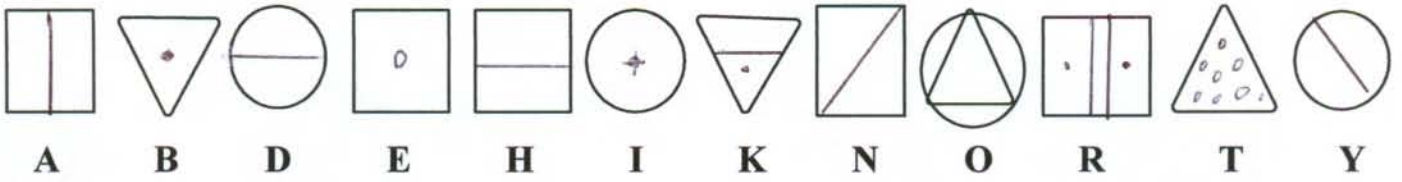


Question Page

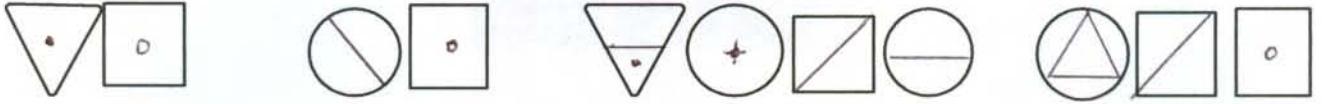
1. Why didn't Isaac marry one of the women who lived near him?
2. Who was Eliezer? (a) Abraham's neighbor (b) Abraham's servant (c) Isaac's brother
3. What was the most important thing in Abraham's and Isaac's life?
(a) Their wealth (b) Caring for their animals (c) Belief in the true God (d) building altars
4. Why was Eliezer told to travel clear to Haran to look for a wife for Isaac?
5. What was the first thing Eliezer did when he came to the well at Haran?
6. What was the sign that Eliezer asked God for when he stopped at the well?
7. Why did the women of the city come to the well?
8. When Eliezer asked Rebekah for a drink of water, what did she reply?
9. Who was Rebekah's brother? (a) Laban (b) Eliezer (c) Bethuel (d) Isaac
10. What kind of things did Eliezer bring as gifts to Rebekah and her family?
11. What did Rebekah's family say when Eliezer asked if Rebekah would go with him to be a bride for Isaac?
(a) She's too young to leave her mother
(b) Yes, because she's been chosen by God
(c) Wait until next year than ask us again
12. Did Rebekah believe in idols (images of gold or silver) or did she worship the true God?
13. When Rebekah saw Isaac coming toward them, what did she put on her face
(a) lipstick (b) a nose ring (c) a veil (d) earrings
14. What is your memory verse about trust?

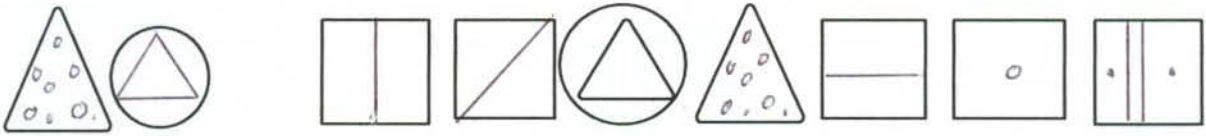
Help Rebekah find the way through the land of Israel to her future home with Isaac



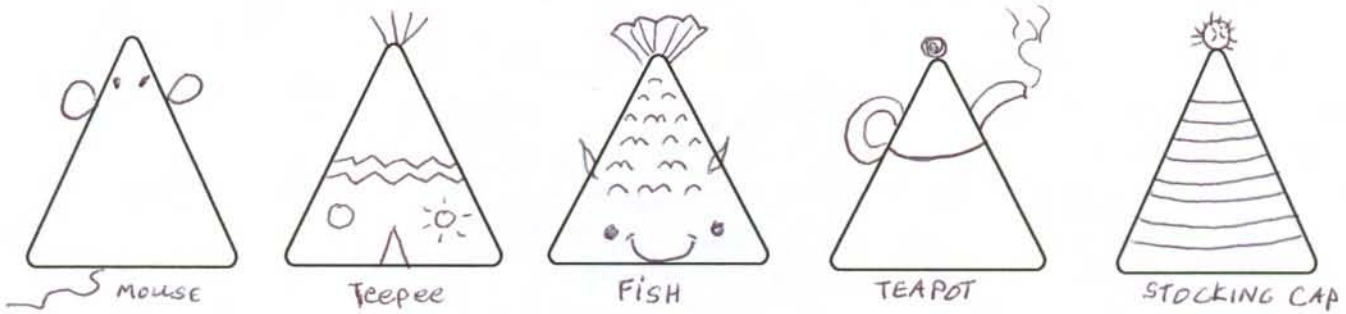


See if you can decode the message below by using the code above.





Look at how many things you can draw from a simple triangle.



Now it's your turn...can you draw some triangle art below?

