

WEEK 1: GOD AT WORK IN MARRIAGES
DAY 1: GOD AT WORK TEACHING US

1. Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus. We pray that you and your family are well. As we write we pray that God will bless you very much in your study.

In this book we will study the second part of the book of Genesis. We will study Genesis chapters 24 to 50.

Will we study all of the book of Genesis in this book? _____

2. In this book we will study only the second part of Genesis. Perhaps you have not studied Genesis, Part 1 chapters 1 to 23. If not, we hope you will be able to study it later. In this book, we will spend all our time on Part 2 of Genesis. It will be chapters 24 to 50. Today we will learn why God gave us the book of Genesis.

God gave us the book
of Genesis to teach us.

From which book of the Bible will we study? _____

3. We will study the second part of Genesis. Genesis is the very first book in the Bible. It is at the beginning of the Old Testament. Some Christians do not read the Old Testament very much. But see what Paul wrote to the Roman Christians.

Romans 15:4:

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction (or to teach us).

Have you read much in the book of Genesis? _____

4. Maybe you have written Yes or No. Paul told the Roman Christians that everything written in the former days was to teach us. This means the days before Jesus was born. Paul was writing about the Old Testament scriptures. Everything written in the Old Testament was written to teach us. So everything written in the book of Genesis was written to teach us.

Why has God given us the book of Genesis? _____

5. God has given us this book to teach us. This book is at the beginning of the Bible. The name means "beginnings." It is an important book. God teaches us about the beginnings of things in this book.

In which book of the Bible does God teach us about the beginning of things?

6. God has given us the book of Genesis. It teaches about the beginning of things. Maybe you have studied Looking at the Old Testament, Part 1. In that book we learned that God teaches about the beginning of four things in Genesis. God teaches about the beginning of the world, the beginning of sin, the beginning of judgment, and the beginning of the people of Israel. Remember these words of Paul.

Romans 15:4:

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction (or to teach us).

From this verse, whom does God want to teach? _____

7. God wants to teach us. Let us read the first verses of the Bible. Open your Bible and read Genesis 1:1 to 8.

Did you read verses 1 to 8 from Genesis 1? _____

8. Each day in your lesson you will be given verses to read. Always stop and read when you are told to do so. Always keep your Bible open until the end of the lesson.

Think about the verses you have just read. Who was there in the beginning?

9. God was there in the beginning. We read a little about God at work making the heavens and the earth. He made the light and darkness. The most important thing that God created was man. In Genesis we learn about the very first marriage. God gave Adam his wife, Eve. God joined them together in marriage. This week we will be thinking about God at work in marriages. Genesis is an important book in the scriptures.

2 Timothy 3:16:

All scripture is inspired (or breathed into) by God and is profitable for teaching.

Who gave us the book of Genesis? _____

10. God gave us the book of Genesis. God used His servant, Moses, to write this book. God has given us all the scriptures. All of the Bible is good for teaching. God wants to teach us. One big way He teaches is by His Word.

Why has God given us the book of Genesis? _____

11. God has given us the book of Genesis to teach us.

One day a mother went to the hospital in a village in Tanzania. Both of her small children were sick. They had very big stomachs and thin legs and arms. Their feet were swollen and their hair was dry and red. They had a sickness that comes if children do not get the right kind of food. One child died and the other was sick for many days. The mother was told that if her children had eaten eggs, beans, milk and some meat, they would not have this sickness. The mother cried and said that she had these foods at home. She said, "I did not know."

What did this mother need? _____

12. She needed to be taught. One child died because this mother did not know about good foods for children.

Many Christians get into trouble in their lives because they are like that mother. They do not know. They are weak and fall into sin because they do not know and obey God's Word.

God has given us His Word to teach us things for our lives and homes. He wants to teach us things for our work for Him. He wants to teach us how He worked in other people's lives. He wants us to learn from the mistakes of others, so we may not make the same mistakes. God wants to teach us so we may be grown up in our faith.

What do you want God to do for you as you study Genesis 24 to 50? _____

13. Be ready to talk about this in class.

Stop now and thank God for this opportunity to study His Word. Ask Him to help you learn His Word. Ask Him to help you learn things for your life.

14. Good! You have nearly finished the work for today. Tomorrow we will do the lesson for Day 2. Now answer this big question.

Why has God given us the book of Genesis? _____

WEEK 1: GOD AT WORK IN MARRIAGES

DAY 2: WE LEARN ABOUT ABRAHAM, ISAAC, JACOB, AND JOSEPH

1. Welcome to this second day of our study together. All this term we will be Studying Genesis 24 to 50. But today we will read parts of the earlier chapters of Genesis. First, remember the big question from yesterday.

Why has God given us the book of Genesis? _____

2. God has given us the book of Genesis to teach us. The Bible is a book about life. It is a book about people. It is about God at work in His world and in the lives of people.

At the end of this lesson you will write the names of the four men we learn about in Genesis 24-50. They are: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.

Which book in the Bible tells us about the beginning of things? _____

3. The book of Genesis tells us about the beginning of the world. It also tells us how God created man. It tells of the beginning of sin and God's judgment on sin. Man sinned and cut himself off from God. But God did not leave man. God began to work out His plan to save man and bring him back to Himself.

Who is at work in the world in a good way? _____

4. God is at work in the world. God's plan to save man and bring him back took many years. But it began in the book of Genesis. God called one man.

Open your Bible and read Genesis 12:1 to 9. In these verses, whom did God call?

5. God called Abram. God made great promises to Abram. God promised to make him the father of a great nation. God promised to give him and his descendants the land of Canaan. Abram's descendants were his children, his grandchildren, their children, and all born to them. God promised to bless Abram. He also promised that in Abram all families of the earth would be blessed.

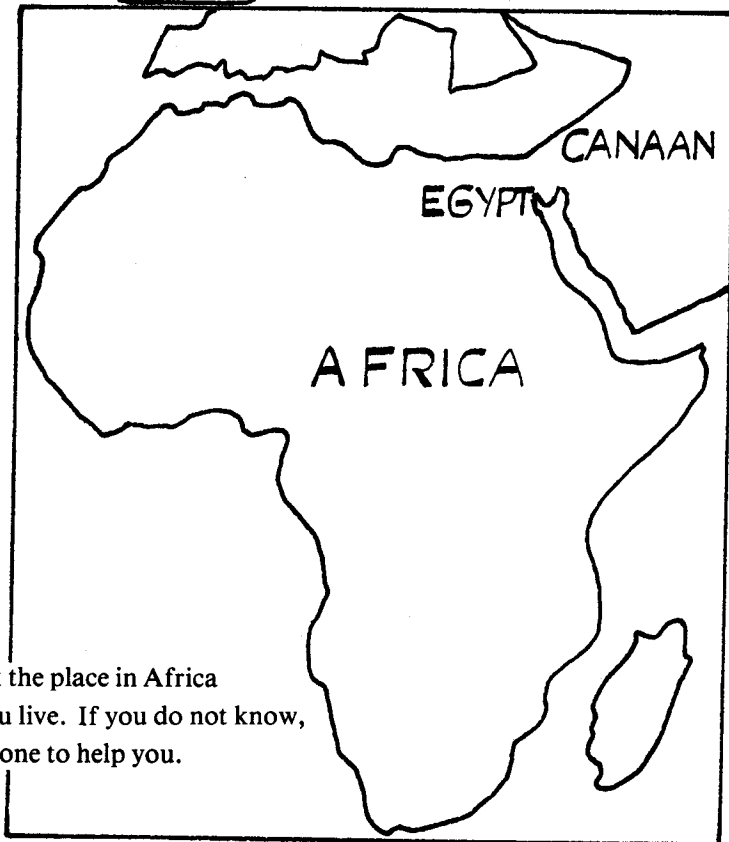
Later God changed his name to Abraham. This new name meant "father of many, many people."

What new name did God give Abram? _____

6. God changed his name to Abraham. God made an agreement with Abraham. He called Abraham to walk with Him, and God promised to be his God.

Look at the map. Find Canaan. Canaan was the land God promised to Abraham and his descendants. It was the land where Abraham's descendants would live. They would be the nation of Israel.

(1) On the map, draw a circle round the name canaan, like this: **CANAAN**



(2) Mark the place in Africa where you live. If you do not know, ask someone to help you.

7. We learn about Abraham in Genesis. For many years Abraham and his wife, Sarah, had no children. But Abraham believed God's promise to make him the father of a great nation. After many years God kept His promise to Abraham.

Genesis 21:2-3:

And Sarah conceived, and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac.

What name did Abraham give his son? _____

8. Abraham called his son, Isaac. Tomorrow we will learn how Abraham sent his servant to find a wife for Isaac. God also made great promises to Abraham's son. This is what God said to Isaac.

Genesis 26:24:

I am the God of Abraham your father; fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your descendants for my servant Abraham's sake.

In our study on Genesis 24 to 50 we will learn about Isaac. We will also learn about Isaac's father. Who was he? _____

9. Isaac's father was Abraham. God promised Isaac that he would have many descendants. Isaac's wife had twin sons, Esau and Jacob. It was Jacob who was given his father Isaac's special blessing. Jacob is the third man we learn about in Genesis 24 to 50. God made promises to Jacob too. God said to Jacob:

Genesis 28:13-14:

I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants; and your descendants shall be like the dust of the earth.

Write the names of the first two men we learn about in Genesis 24 to 50.

(1) _____ (3) Jacob

(2) _____

10. We will learn about other men also. But mostly we learn about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. These three men were the fathers of the nation of Israel. Sometimes we call this nation the People of Israel, or the Children of Israel. The People of Israel always looked back to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as the father of their nation.

Does your tribe have stories about the fathers of the tribe? _____

11. Most tribes have stories like this. God called the people of Israel to be a light to the world. From this nation years later Jesus would be born. Jesus too looked back to the fathers of the nation. One day Jesus asked some people this question:

Mark 12:26:

And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God said to him, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'?

Write the names of three of the men we learn about in Genesis 24 to 50.

(1) _____ (3) _____

(2) _____ (4) Joseph

12. We will learn about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In Genesis we read how those men were called by God. God made the same great promises to each of them. The fourth man we learn about is Joseph. Joseph was one of Jacob's 12 sons. Joseph was important in God's plan for the world.

Who is the son of Jacob that we learn about in Genesis? _____

13. We will be learning about Joseph. For five weeks we will learn the life of Joseph. God has much to teach us for our lives from the life of Joseph.

Write the names of the four men we learn about in Genesis 24 to 50.

(1) _____ (3) _____

(2) _____ (4) _____

14. We will learn about Abraham and his son, Isaac. We will learn about Isaac's son, Jacob. And we will learn about Jacob's son, Joseph.

Stop now and pray. Ask God to bless you as you study the lives of these men. Ask God to bless the other students in your class. Ask God to bless, help, and guide your teacher.

15. Write the names of the four men we learn about in Genesis 24 to 50.

(1) _____ (3) _____

(2) _____ (4) _____

WEEK 1: GOD AT WORK IN MARRIAGES
DAY 3: GOD GUIDED IN THE CHOICE OF ISAAC'S BRIDE
GENESIS 24:1-27

1. Welcome to our third lesson. Today we begin our study on chapters 24 to 50. Each day in the lesson you are given verses to read. You must read these or you will not be able to do the lesson.

As well, there are extra verses to read if you have time. You will find these verses under the name of the day's lesson. Today's lesson is called: God Helped the Choice of Isaac's Bride. Today's reading is Genesis 24:1-27. If you read these verses for each day, you will read all of chapters 24 to 50. This will be a help to you.

From yesterday, write the names of the four men we learn about in Genesis 24 to 50.

- (1) _____ (3) _____
(2) _____ (4) _____
- =====

2. We learn about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph in Genesis 24 to 50.

Abraham and his wife Sarah waited many years for a child. God gave them only one child, Isaac. By the time Isaac grew up, Abraham was an old man. Isaac was grown up and he had no wife. Abraham was concerned about the choice of a bride for his son.

Why is the choosing of a bride a big matter? _____

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3. Be ready to talk about this in class. In our lives we make many choices. Some are little and some are very big choices. The biggest choice we can make in our lives is to choose the Lord Jesus. We can make Him our Saviour and Master. This choice affects all our life here on earth. It affects our life after death also.

Have you made this choice? Have you asked the Lord Jesus to be the Saviour and Master of your life?

=====

4. I pray that you have made that choice. If you have not yet made that choice, perhaps you could talk with your teacher or pastor. This book is written to people who have chosen Christ.

Perhaps the next biggest choice we can make is the person we will marry. This is a very important choice. Abraham did not want his son to marry one of the girls of the land of Canaan. They did not know and follow the God of Abraham. Abraham wanted to get a wife from his home country for Isaac. But Abraham was too old to travel. So he called his trusted servant.

What did Abraham want his servant to do? _____

=====

5. Abraham wanted him to find a bride for Isaac. He would go to Abraham's family. Abraham did not want Isaac to leave Canaan. That was the land God had promised to give him and his descendants. Today we will learn two important things which Abraham's servant did in choosing a bride for Isaac.

- (1) He asked God to guide him.
- (2) He followed God's guidance.

Who was sent by Abraham to choose a bride for Isaac? _____

6. What an important job Abraham gave his servant! He must choose a bride for Isaac. Young people go to different places to find a bride. They may go to youth camps, beer halls, churches, or dances. Abraham's servant went on a long journey. He came to the city of Nahor in the country Abraham came from. At evening he sat down by a well. Let us read to see what happened.

Take your Bible now and read Genesis 24:10-14. Keep your Bible open. From these verses, what did Abraham's servant do by the well? _____

7. Abraham's servant prayed. He asked God to guide him. The servant knew that choosing a bride is a very important matter. He knew he could not make the right choice by himself. He needed God to guide him. So we see the first thing Abraham's servant did in looking for a bride for Isaac. He asked God to guide him.

Abraham's servant asked God to guide him in what matter? _____

8. He asked for guidance in choosing a bride for Isaac. This is the first thing any Christian should do in looking for a wife. Abraham's servant asked God to guide him in a special way. He asked for a sign to guide him. There were many girls coming to the well for water. The servant would ask for a drink. He prayed that one girl would get water for his camels also. This would be the right wife for Isaac.

Whose guidance did Abraham's servant ask for? _____

9. We can look for guidance from friends, books, teachers, and in other ways. But Abraham's servant wanted God's guidance. He talked with God and said:

Genesis 24:14:
(The girl) who shall say, 'Drink, and I will water your camels' -- let her be the one who thou has appointed (or chosen) for thy servant Isaac.

Now we see why Abraham's servant asked God to guide him. He wanted to choose the girl whom God chose for Isaac. The servant wanted God to guide him and show him the girl.

Whom did Abraham's servant want to choose Isaac's wife? _____

10. Abraham's servant wanted God to choose the bride for Isaac. Some Christian parents choose a wife for their son because she is pretty. Or perhaps she has had many years of school. Or perhaps she comes from a rich or important family. But Abraham's servant wanted to choose the girl who was God's choice for Isaac. God's choice is always the best. He always wants what is good for us.

Now read Genesis 24:15-21. Did God answer the servant's prayer that God should guide him? _____

11. The Bible says that before he finished speaking, Rebekah came. What a wonderful God we have! Abraham's servant asked God to guide him. God answered before he finished praying. Rebekah was a lovely girl and a virgin.

Write the first thing Abraham's servant did in choosing a bride for Isaac.

- (1) _____
- (2) He followed God's guidance

12. Abraham's servant asked God to guide him. God does not always guide us with a sign as he did Abraham's servant. But God wants to guide us. God guided Abraham's servant to Rebekah. Straight away he gave Rebekah a ring and bracelets for her arms. Abraham's servant did not wait at the well to look at other girls. God had guided him.

Did the servant follow God's guidance? _____

13. The servant followed the guidance which he received. After giving Rebekah gifts, he asked her about her family. God had guided him to this girl. So he began to ask her who she was and where she came from. I am sure Abraham's servant was glad when he heard her answer. Rebekah was the daughter of one of Abraham's own relatives.

Whose guidance did Abraham's servant follow? _____

14. The servant followed God's guidance. He asked Rebekah if he may stay at her father's house. He wanted to meet her family. He wanted to talk with them about an important matter. But before Abraham's servant went to meet Rebekah's family, he prayed again.

Genesis 24:36-27:

The man bowed his head and worshipped the Lord, and said, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the Lord has led me in the way to the house of my master's kinsmen (or family.)"

For what did Abraham's servant thank God? _____

15. He thanked God for His love and faithfulness to Abraham. The servant also thanked for His guidance. He thanked God for guiding him to Abraham's own family. After worshipping God, Abraham's servant went straight to Rebekah's home. He met her family. They gave him food. But he would not eat until he talked of the reason for his visit.

What did God give Abraham's servant, which he followed? _____

16. God gave him guidance. Sometimes we ask God to guide us. When He does guide us, we do not want to follow. But to follow God's guidance is the way to blessing.

There was a young Christian man in Tanzania. He was looking for a bride. His uncles told him of a girl in a town 70 miles away. But the uncles did not know God. And the young man did not ask God to guide him. He did not ask guidance from his pastor, or the elders of the church. He married the girl. But after three weeks, she ran away with another man. She was not the right bride for this young Christian.

Write the second important thing that Abraham's servant did in choosing a bride for Isaac.

(1) He asked God to guide him.

(2) _____

17. He followed God's guidance. This lesson teaches us much about the important matter of choosing a bride. In Africa, parents and pastors often help to choose the bride for a young man. Family and friends often help too. Or they choose a husband for a girl.

Have you ever helped to choose a wife or husband for someone? _____

Think about what Abraham's servant did in choosing a bride for Isaac. What should you do if you are asked to help choose a wife or husband for someone? _____

18. Be ready to share your answers in class.

Write two important things that Abraham's servant did in choosing a bride for Isaac.

(1) _____

(2) _____

WEEK 1: GOD AT WORK IN MARRIAGES

DAY 4: PREPARING AN ENGAGEMENT

Genesis 24:28-59

1. Yesterday we read about Abraham's servant. Write two important things that Abraham's servant did in choosing a bride for Isaac.

(1) _____

(2) _____

2. Abraham's servant asked God to guide him. And he followed God's guidance. At the well God led him to Rebekah. She was the daughter of Bethuel who was Abraham's nephew. The servant went to meet Rebekah's family. He wanted to talk with them about the engagement of Isaac and Rebekah. When a man and woman are engaged, they promise to marry each other.

In the customs of your people, do you have a time of engagement? _____

3. In most tribes there is a time of engagement. Today we will learn three important things Christians should think about in engagement. These important matters were thought of in the engagement of Isaac and Rebekah.

(1) The spiritual life of both.

(2) The consent of the family.

(3) The consent of the bride.

Take your Bible now. If you have not read it, read Genesis 24:28 to 33. What did Abraham's servant want to talk about with Rebekah's family? _____

4. He wanted to talk about the engagement of Rebekah and Isaac. Abraham's servant was received well in Rebekah's home. He gave them news about Abraham and his family. He told them of the promise he had made to Abraham.

Genesis 24:37-38:

My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell; but you shall go to my father's house and to my kindred (or family), and take a wife for my son.'

Whom did Abraham not want to marry a girl of Canaan? _____

5. The girls of Canaan did not know and worship God. Abraham did not want his son Isaac to marry a girl of Canaan. Abraham worshipped the Lord God. God had made great promises to Abraham and his descendants. Abraham wanted Isaac to marry a girl who would worship the true God. So Abraham sent his servant to the country where his family lived. There the servant would get a bride for Isaac.

What kind of wife did Abraham want for his son? _____

6. Abraham wanted a wife for Isaac who would worship the true God. He thought about the spiritual life of both the bride and groom. Marriage is the closest way we can live with another person. In marriage, God plans that a man and woman are one flesh. They are one in body, one in mind, and one in spirit. Abraham wanted Isaac to be one with his wife in spiritual matters. So the spiritual life of both was important.

In whose engagement was the spiritual life of both an important matter? Write both names.

(1) _____ (2) _____

7. The first important matter was the spiritual life of Isaac and Rebekah.

James was a young man we knew in Tanzania. He was an evangelist and was not married. James loved the Lord and wanted to serve Him. The church leaders said it would be better for the Lord's work if he had a wife. So they arranged James' marriage. But they chose Anna, a girl who did not know and love the Lord. We felt so sorry for James. Even the first year of this marriage was full of quarrelling and trouble.

What important matter did these church leaders forget in preparing the engagement of James and Anna?

8. They forgot to look at the spiritual life of both. Anna was not able to share with James in spiritual things. They were one in body. But they had no oneness in spirit. Abraham did not want this kind of marriage for his son.

Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth about this. He wrote about the matter of Christians marrying those who were not Christians.

2 Corinthians 6:14:

Do not be mismatched (or wrongly joined) with unbelievers. For what partnership (or union) have righteousness and iniquity? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

Write the first important matter thought of in the engagement of Isaac and Rebekah.

- (1) _____
(2) The consent of the family.
(3) The consent of the bride.

9. The first important matter was the spiritual life of both. Abraham's servant talked with Rebekah's mother, father, and brother. He told them how he had asked God to guide him. He told them of God's answer to his prayer. Then he asked them the big question. He asked if they would agree to let Rebekah be the bride for Isaac.

Now read Genesis 24:50 to 52. Keep your Bible open. Did Rebekah's family give their consent to the engagement?

10. Laban and Bethuel said, "The thing comes from the Lord." The family gave their consent to the engagement of Rebekah and Isaac. They could see the way the Lord had guided. They followed God's guidance. They believed that the Lord had spoken in this matter.

Whose family gave their consent to the engagement of Rebekah? _____

11. The family of Rebekah gave their consent. The consent of the family is the second matter thought of in this engagement.

David and his wife are Kenyans who love the Lord. One day their 17-year-old daughter did not come home from School. The parents waited for three days. David asked many people if they had seen her. At last, he heard some news. His daughter was in a big town nearby. She had run away with a young man.

What did David's daughter not get from her family? _____

12. She did not get the consent of the family. This is not the way to begin a happy marriage. David and his family are sad about this matter.

Write the second important matter thought of in the engagement of Isaac and Rebekah.

(1) The spiritual life of both.

(2) _____

(3) The consent of the bride.

13. The consent of the family was the second important matter. When a man and woman marry, their families are joined together. Today there are big changes in marriage customs. Sometimes young people go off and get married without talking to parents and family. This is not a good thing.

Stop and read Genesis 24:52 to 59.

14. When Rebekah's family gave consent, Abraham's servant worshipped the Lord. He gave gifts to Rebekah's family. Then he wanted to begin his journey home straight away. He wanted to take Rebekah back to Abraham and Isaac. But Rebekah's mother wanted her to stay ten more days. So Rebekah's family called her. They asked her this question, "Will you go with this man?"

Read Genesis 24:58 again. Who gave her consent? _____

15. Rebekah said, "I will go." She too gave her consent to the marriage. She agreed to go straight away with Abraham's servant. The consent of the bride is the third matter thought of in the engagement of Isaac and Rebekah. In Christian marriage we promise to live together until death. A woman may share her life with her husband for 50 years. Rebekah was given the opportunity to agree or not agree to marry Isaac.

Do you think it is good to get the consent of the bride? _____

Why do you think so? _____

16. Be ready to talk about this in class. In some countries men think they are better than women. In these countries girls cannot say whom they want to marry. They have no opportunity to give consent to their marriages. Men make all the decisions. But the Bible teaches that men and women are equal in God's eyes. The Gospel lifts women to the place God wants them to have.

1 Peter 3:7:

... you are joint heirs (or equal receivers) of the grace of life.

Write the third important matter thought of in the engagement of Isaac and Rebekah.

- (1) The spiritual life of both.
- (2) The consent of the family.
- (3) _____

17. The spiritual life of both, the consent of the family, and the consent of the bride are all important. These were all thought of in the engagement of Isaac and Rebekah.

Why do you think Christians ought to look at these things before preparing an engagement? _____

18. Be ready to read your answer in class.

Write three important matters thought of in the engagement of Isaac and Rebekah.

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

WEEK 1: GOD AT WORK IN MARRIAGES

DAY 5: ISAAC LOVED HIS WIFE

Genesis 24:60-67

1. Welcome to the last lesson for this week. We hope you are reading the extra verses for each day. You will find them under the name of the lesson for the day. You see that today's lesson is: Isaac loved His Wife. Today's verses are Genesis 24:60-67. Read these verses before going on with the lesson. Now see what you can remember from this first week of study.

Why has God given us the book of Genesis? _____

2. God has given us the book of Genesis to teach us. In chapters 25 to 50 we learn mostly about four men.

Write the names of the four men we learn about in Genesis 24 to 50.

(1) _____ (3) _____

(2) _____ (4) _____

3. We learn about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph in these chapters. We began our study in chapter 24. In that chapter we read of the choice of a bride for Isaac. Abraham sent his trusted servant to choose a bride for his son.

Write two important things that Abraham's servant did in choosing a bride for Isaac.

(1) _____

(2) _____

4. He asked God to guide him. And he followed God's guidance. God guided him to Rebekah. The servant went to see Rebekah's family. He prepared the engagement of Isaac and Rebekah.

Write three important matters thought of in the engagement of Isaac and Rebekah.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

5. The three important matters were: the spiritual life of both, the consent of the family, and the consent of the bride. Rebekah was the wife chosen for Isaac.

Today we will learn how Isaac
felt towards his wife, Rebekah
He loved her.

Stop now and read Genesis 24:60 to 67 if you have not read it. Did you read these verses in your Bible? _____

6. The new bride gave her consent to the marriage. She chose to become Isaac's wife. She also agreed to leave her home straight away. She went with Abraham's servant. She was quick to follow God's guidance in the matter. Before she left home, her family blessed her.

What was the name of the wife God gave to Isaac? _____

7. Her name was Rebekah. Rebekah and her servants began their long journey to Canaan with the servant of Abraham. They went on camels. These are animals which walk very slowly. One evening Isaac went out in the field to meditate. He was thinking and talking with God. Perhaps he was even praying about his bride. He saw some camels coming. He went to meet the people. Abraham's servant told Isaac all that he had done.

Whom do you think Isaac was wanting to meet? _____

8. I think he was wanting to meet his bride. The Bible does not tell us about the marriage of Rebekah and Isaac. It does not tell us about the feast. But the Bible tells us something else which God wants us to know.

Genesis 24:67:

Then Isaac brought her into the tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her.

Whom did Isaac love? _____

9. Isaac loved his wife, Rebekah. Marriage is one of God's best gifts to men. It is part of God's plan for men and women. Marriage between a man and a woman is a thought which came from God.

But when we look about us we see many sad marriages. Husbands and wives quarrel and fight. Some husbands are cruel to their wives. They make them work very hard. Some wives are lazy and dirty. Some husbands and wives are unfaithful. God never planned marriage to be like this. We must follow what God says in order for our marriages to be happy.

Colossians 3:19:

Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

What does God want Christian men to do to their wives? _____

10. God wants a Christian man to love his wife. He should not be harsh or cruel to her. Isaac was a man of faith. He followed God's plan in the way he felt towards his wife.

How did Isaac feel towards his wife, Rebekah? _____

11. He loved her. Paul gave much teaching to the Christians on the way a man should love his wife.

Ephesians 5:25:

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

From this verse, in what way should husbands love their wives? _____

12. They should love them in the same way Christ loved the Church. Jesus died for the Church. What great love Jesus has for His Church! What great love God wants Christian men to have for their wives!

In Genesis 24, who loved the wife God had given him? _____

13. Isaac did not choose his wife. God chose Rebekah for him. Isaac loved the wife God had chosen. Paul also told the Christians at Ephesus:

Ephesians 5:28:

Even so husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

One day I was in a T.E.E. group. All the students are men of faith. We were talking about Christian men loving their wives. I asked Stephen this question: "Is it right for a Christian to beat his wife?" Stephen was quiet as he thought. He said, "Yes, if she has done something bad." Others in the group did not agree with Stephen. But Stephen said, "What else can I do if I do not beat her?"

What do you think? Before you answer, read again the verse you just read from Ephesians. _____

14. Be ready to talk about your answer in class. You may like to read all that Paul wrote to the Ephesian Christians about marriage. It is in Ephesians 5:21-33. God's plan is for men to love their wives. And Christian women should obey and respect their husbands.

Esther loves the Lord. Her husband also is a man of faith. She gave this testimony in a T.E.E. group. She and her husband go together to visit people and tell them of Jesus. They visited a certain woman. Later, this woman walked 14 kilometers to ask Esther a question. "What medicine do you give your husband so that he loves you so much?" Esther said that she gave him no medicine. Jesus had given her husband this love for her.

One way a man can show his love for his wife is to work for God together. In what other ways can a man show his love for his wife? _____

15. Be ready to read your answer in class.

Chapter 24 is the longest chapter in Genesis. The whole chapter is about choosing a bride for Isaac. Isaac was one of the great fathers of the people Israel. He and Rebekah became the parents of this nation. The chapter ends by telling us how Isaac felt towards his wife.

How did Isaac feel towards his wife, Rebekah? _____

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16. He loved her. Isaac, one of the great fathers of Israel, loved his wife. Isaac, the man of faith, loved his wife. In this matter, Isaac is an example to all men of God. Some men need to ask God's forgiveness for not loving their wives. Some men need to ask God to help them love their wives in a way that pleases him.

This week we have learned much about marriage. The young people in your church need this teaching. In these days of change, they need to hear what God says about marriage.

Prepare a lesson or sermon to teach from what you have learned. On another paper write the big things you will say. Teach the lesson if you can. Bring your paper to class.

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17. How did Isaac feel towards his wife, Rebekah? _____