



The Search for Rebekah

Lesson Aim: To challenge children in each job they have been given to obey, pray, and give themselves away.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Keeps His Promises

THE WORD

Bible Story: Genesis 24:34-51

What He has done: God helped the servant fulfill his mission and find Rebekah.

Key Verse: Genesis 24:48

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Ephesians 6:5-8

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"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. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

Unit 7: The God Who Keeps His Promises			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
32	Abram and Lot, Genesis 13:1-2, 5-18	God gave Abram the land and blessed it.	To learn how to be a peacekeeper.
33	Hagar and Ishmael, Genesis 16:7-16; 21:9-20	God watched over Hagar and Ishmael and gave them a promise.	To see God watches over us and ensures His plans for us.
34	Abraham and Isaac, Genesis 22:1-2, 6-18	God fulfilled His promise of a son for Abraham and tested Abraham's faith.	To challenge children to a more active faith.
35	The Search for Rebekah, Genesis 24:34-51	God helped the servant fulfill his mission and find Rebekah.	To challenge children in each job they have been given to obey, pray, and give themselves away.
36	Jacob and Esau, Genesis 25:29-33; 27:19-23, 32-36	God had a plan for each brother, Jacob and Esau.	To understand the role of God's mercy in the lives of those He chooses to use in His plans.
37	Life of Jacob: The Blessing, Genesis 32:24-30; 33:4, 8-10; 35:1, 10-12	God kept His promises to be with Jacob and to make him into a nation.	To inspire spiritual growth in pursuing God's blessings and in mending relationships.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Philippians 4:4-7. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for hearing our prayers. Call Your children to a life of prayer. Give us all an understanding of doing our work for You. Amen."

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God of Wonders Unit 7, Lesson 35 ~ Ages 8-9

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Secret Message	Sturdy paper, markers, box of cookies
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Am with You" "I Lift Up My Eyes" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Standing on the Promises" "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		Worship Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 29:11-13	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 35 High Seas Adventures script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Genesis 24:34-51	Map—Mesopotamia, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discussion	O.P.G. folders, pencils or pens, Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Ephesians 6:5-8	
		Golden Bowl	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat— Operation O.P.G. folder is a "Top Secret" folder with Bible verses and space for notes about jobs (available at ResourceWell.org), Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "You Will Seek Me," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Secret Snack	Cookies from the SECRET MESSAGE game in THE WELCOME segment of this lesson
	Up to 10	Game: What's My Job?	Index cards or sturdy paper, marker, hat or container
	Up to 10	Discussion: The Rest of the Story	Bible
	Up to 10	Craft: Watercolor Messages	White cardstock, white crayons, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, cups of water, newspaper
	Up to 10	Discussion: I Can O.P.G.	None
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Scrambled Promise	Sturdy colorful paper, Bible or Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Understanding the Promise	None
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Timeline

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: What is the hardest job you have ever been given?

GAME: SECRET MESSAGE

Purpose: Start class time with this theme-related activity to help students begin to focus on the lesson.

Supplies: Sturdy paper, markers, box of cookies

Prepare: Hide the box of cookies inside your class area. Make 10 footprints for each team by tracing the outline of a foot from sturdy paper. Write each one of the following phrases on a footprint so the footprints can be put in order to show the full verse.

“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. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.” / Jeremiah 29:11-13

Place the footprints in order, turn them over, and in a different color marker, write:

Go to location of cookies to find today's snack.

Option: If you have a large number of beginning readers, purchase a simple puzzle for each team instead of using the footprints. Draw a simple map to the cookie hiding spot on the back of the puzzle.

Who likes to watch detective and secret agent movies? Often, the detective or secret agent receives a special assignment. Sometimes it is top secret or requires decoding a secret message. The detective or secret agent then follows a path of clues or takes a trip to complete the mission.

In our Bible Story today, we will discover how Abraham sent his servant on a very important special assignment. But, first, I have a special assignment for you. Decode these mysterious footprints and put them in order so they display the Bible Memory Verse. Then, when you turn them over you will be able to discover the secret message that will lead you to a special treat.

Directions:

1. Divide the class into teams of five or six players per team. If possible, include at least one good reader on each team.
2. Give a set of footprints to each team. Tell teams which color/side of the footprints they are to put in order.
3. On your signal, each team races to put the footprints in order. When the footprints are in order, the team stands and reads the Bible Memory Verse together.
4. After a teacher or helpers checks to make sure the footprints are in order, the team flips over the footprints, in order, to read the secret message. They may then race to the hiding spot and retrieve the cookies for the class to share at snack time.



The God who keeps His promises

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

Welcome! Today, we worship the God who keeps His promise to listen when we come and pray to Him. In today's story, we will read how God listened to the prayer of Abraham's servant and helped him do his job. God has heard our prayers and He will help us do our work, too.



As we give our offerings, let's celebrate God's promise to always watch over us. He is with us and watching over us, just as He was with Abraham's servant while he searched for Isaac's future wife Rebekah. Sing: "I Am with You" while the offering is collected.

Sing Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me."

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God watching over us.



Read Jeremiah 29:11-13.



Perform High Seas Adventures script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 7, Lesson 35.



The servant searches for Rebekah

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we discovered God tested Abraham by telling him to sacrifice his son Isaac. Who did God send to stop Abraham just before he sacrificed Isaac? (An angel.) What did God promise Abraham? (He would have more family than there are stars.)

If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Isaac and Rebekah. For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **Today, we will read how Abraham's chief servant was sent to search for a wife for Isaac. Abraham wanted Isaac's wife to be from his homeland because they believed in God there. Let's read what happened when the servant neared the town of Abraham's brother Nahor.** If a map is available, point to Mesopotamia, a country between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Genesis 24:34-51. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Genesis 24:48.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Today, we will be given a special mission: "OPERATION O.P.G." Listen closely to the story Abraham's servant tells the family. The servant gave us a great example of a successful O.P.G. Mission. Read Genesis 24:34-51.



Our mission: Obey, pray, and give yourself away

THE WAY

Additional Supplies: O.P.G. folders, pencils or pens

What special job did Abraham give his chief servant? (Find a wife for Isaac.) **Why did Abraham want Isaac's wife to be from far away?** (Abraham wanted Isaac to have a wife from his homeland where they followed God.) **What did Abraham make his servant do before leaving?** (Swear an oath, which is a promise, to complete his special job.) **These O.P.G. folders hold clues that will help us complete our mission.** Distribute Operation O.P.G. folders.

What did the servant do when asked to do this job? (He obeyed.) **The first part of our Operation O.P.G. job is to obey. Print the letter "O" on the first blank in your O.P.G. folder. When given a job to do by God, our parents, or teachers, we should obey.**

Who did the servant ask for help? (God.) **Abraham said God would send an angel to help the servant complete his special job. What sign did the servant ask for to help him find the right woman?** (The woman would give water to him and his camels.) **What happened?** (Rebekah appeared and did exactly as he had asked in his prayer.) **What did the servant do after he found Rebekah?** (Praised and thanked God.) **The "P" in Operation O.P.G. stands for "Pray." Print the letter "P" on the second blank of your folder.**

Not only did the servant obey and pray, but he also gave his best effort to complete his job. The "G" in Operation O.P.G. stands for "give away." That means to give your time, energy and best effort so you will do a great job. Print the letter "G" on the third blank of your folder. How did the servant give himself away? (He gave his time, his energy, his best effort, and the jewelry Abraham had sent with him.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

2000 years after the servant found a wife for Isaac, Paul wrote to the Ephesians about giving yourself away. Paul's advice to the slaves in Ephesus is true for us today.



FIND IT FIRST Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Ephesians 6:5-8. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Ephesians 6:5-8.

God wants us to do our best work, as if He was the one who gave us the job. He wants us to obey with a smile, pray to ask Him for help, and then give our best effort.

What three things should you do when given a job? (O.P.G. = Obey. Pray. Give yourself away.) **What are your chores or jobs?** (Children respond.) **List your jobs in your O.P.G. folder. In the jobs you have been given, what are some ways you can obey, pray, and give yourself away?** If time allows, use the I CAN O.P.G. discussion located in the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is your Operation O.P.G. folder. Your folder will help you remember to "O.P.G." each time you are given a job to do: Obey, pray, and give yourself away. Each time you are given a job or chore, be sure to add it to your list in your O.P.G. folder—then obey, pray, and give yourself away—it's for the Lord!

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 35 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Abraham's servant praying at the well. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "You Will Seek Me," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: SECRET SNACK

Purpose: To enjoy a snack while discussing the idea of secret missions.

Snack Suggestion: Cookies from the SECRET MESSAGE game in THE WELCOME segment of this lesson

Let's share the cookies you discovered in the "Secret Message" game.

Directions:

1. Hand out the snack and drinks.
2. Ask a child to pray and thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"If you were a secret agent, what type of mission would you like to be sent on?"**

GAME: WHAT'S MY JOB?

Purpose: Children will try to guess what type of job a player is acting out.

Supplies: Index cards or sturdy paper, marker, hat or container

Prepare: Write job titles (such as fireman, teacher, or lawyer) on index cards or pieces of sturdy paper. Write one job title per card. Place the cards in a hat or container.

Optional: Instead of acting, players can draw on a chalkboard, white board, or large paper.

Today, we learned to "O.P.G." when we have a job to do. God wants us to serve Him by obeying, praying, and giving ourselves away. Let's act out some jobs we could do.

Directions:

1. Choose a child to act out a job. Teacher Tip: If you have a large class, have teams of 2-3 children act together.
2. Child draws a card from the hat or container and acts out the job listed on the card.
3. The rest of the children are to guess what job the child is acting out.
4. After the children have correctly guessed the job title, ask them to think of one way a person in that job could obey, pray, or give themselves away to do a great job and to serve God.
5. Continue playing until each child has a turn acting out a job.

DISCUSSION: THE REST OF THE STORY

Purpose: For children to engage in a deeper discussion of the day's lesson.

Supplies: Bible

We just discovered how the servant found Rebekah, but what happened next? Let's find out. Read Genesis 24:57-67. **When Rebekah was asked if she would go with the servant, what did she say?** (She would go.) **How do you think Rebekah felt about leaving her family and traveling with a stranger to marry a man she had never met?** (Afraid, worried, excited.) **Rebekah must have really trusted God to help her do what was right. After marrying Isaac, what did Rebekah do to help him?** (She comforted him after his mother's death.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: WATERCOLOR MESSAGES

Purpose: Children create a well to remind them to obey, pray, and give away.

Supplies: White cardstock, white crayons, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, cups of water, newspaper

Preparation: Protect the work area with newspapers. Set out several cups of water.

Optional: Begin the I CAN O.P.G. discussion while working on the craft.

Today, we learned how to do good work from Abraham's servant. What three things should we do when we're given a job to do? (Obey, pray, and give away.) Great! When we obey instructions, ask God to help us, thank Him for helping us, and then give our best effort, we know we have done the right thing! It is our special mission to do a great job. Let's make a secret message poster to help us remember to "O.P.G.!"

Directions:

1. Give a piece of cardstock and a white crayon to each child.
2. Ask them to write "Obey, Pray, Give Away" on their cardstock using the white crayons. Be sure children press hard while writing.
3. Show the children how to paint over the crayon markings with the watercolors. Children can paint pictures or designs over and around the markings. The oil-based wax in the crayons will not mix with the watercolors and the "hidden" crayon message will show through.

DISCUSSION: I CAN O.P.G.

Purpose: To help children apply what they learned from the servant's choices to their own situations.

Supplies: None

Optional: If your group is mostly older children, divide them into three groups and give each group a job situation to discuss. Have each group report their ideas back to the rest of the class.

What do the letters O.P.G. stand for? (Obey, pray, give away.) Each day, God gives us the choice to obey, pray, and give ourselves away. Let's talk about a few different situations and find the O.P.G. choices we have in those situations. Read and discuss the following situations. For each situation, discuss how to obey, what to pray about, and what children could "give away" to make the job go well. A few ideas are given with each situation as a guide for you as you lead discussion. If you have time, encourage the children to suggest their own situations.

Situations:

1. **How can you O.P.G. when your parent asks you to clean your room?** (Obey by cleaning my room, pray and ask God to help me have a good attitude, give my time to do a good job.)
2. **How can you O.P.G. when your teacher asks you to help a classmate with a math assignment?** (Obey by helping the classmate, pray and ask God for help explaining the lesson so my classmate understands, give away what I know.)
3. **Your neighbor has asked you to help clean her yard. How can you O.P.G.?** (Obey by helping clean up, pray and ask God to show me ways to help, give away my best effort.)
4. **Jesus has told us to show His love to others through our actions. How can we O.P.G.?** (Obey by looking for ways to show His love every day, pray and ask God to show me ways to show His love, give away His love by doing things for others without gaining anything myself.)

Don't forget to thank God for helping you do the best job possible!

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“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.

Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13

GAME: SCRAMBLED PROMISE

Purpose: To help children memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Sturdy colorful paper, Bible or Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: Cut out 17 large heart shapes (8-inch by 11-inch) from colorful sturdy paper. Print brief phrases of Jeremiah 29:11-13 on each heart as follows: 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/ Then you will call/ upon Me and come/ and pray to Me/ and I will/ listen to you/ You will seek Me/ and find Me/ when you seek Me/ with all your heart

Directions:

1. Shuffle the hearts.
2. Give one heart to each child or group of children.
3. On your signal, children race to get the hearts in the correct order to unscramble the verse.
4. Variations of this game include relays, setting time limits, or timing each individual.
5. To simplify the game, display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

DISCUSSION: UNDERSTANDING THE PROMISE

Purpose: To help children understand the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

In our Bible Memory Verse, God promises He has special plans for each of us. Read Jeremiah 29:11. **What does He say about those plans?** (His plans will be good for us: “...plans to prosper you and not to harm you.” We can look forward to what He has planned for us throughout our lives: “plans to give you hope and a future.”) **Just as God kept His promise to Abram, He will keep His promises to us. What plans did He have for Abram?** (God gave him a new land, a huge family that became a nation, and made him famous.)

Read Jeremiah 29:12-13. **What does God want us to do?** (Seek Him and pray to Him with all our hearts.) **What does God promise when we do these things?** (He will listen to us and we will find Him in our lives.) **Abram showed us how to seek God. Abram was always talking to God and was ready to listen each time God told him about His plan for him.**

How can we seek God? (Read the Bible, pray, worship, spend time with other Christians.) **Sometimes, God may show little bits of His plan to you over many years. Abram had to be patient and wait to see God’s plan for him, but it was worth the wait!**

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Genesis through Joshua. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) What did God do for Hagar and Ishmael in the desert? (He watched over them and gave them water.) What promise did the angel make to Hagar? (God would make Ishmael into a great nation.)

Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) How did God test Abraham? (God told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac.) Who did God send to stop Abraham before he sacrificed Isaac? (An angel.) What did God promise Abraham? (He would have more family than stars in the sky.)

Isaac and Rebekah Who did Abraham send to find the future wife for Isaac? (His chief servant.) What happened when the servant arrived at the well? (He prayed for God's sign to be a woman who gave water to him and the camels.) What was the name of the wife the servant found for Isaac? (Rebekah.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Genesis through Joshua:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the two Unit 10 cards for God of Wonders Advent: Lessons 48-52.
4. To review the Bible Timeline, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Genesis through Joshua: Creation > Adam and Eve > Cain and Abel > Noah (Circa 2350 B.C.) > Tower of Babel > Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) > Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) > Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) > Isaac and Rebekah > Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) > Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.) > Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.) > Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.)

Unit 10: John the Baptist (Circa 7-2 B.C.) > Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)