



LESSON II

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: Godly character.

Bible Character(s): Isaac, Rebekah

Scripture Reference: Genesis 24



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read Genesis 24 to be familiar with the story of Abraham's search for a wife for Isaac. Abraham entrusted the task of finding a woman of godly character for Isaac to his oldest, most reliable servant, Eliezer [eh-lee-ay-zer or eh-lee-zer]. Eliezer traveled approximately 550 miles, taking about 21 days, in his pursuit for a wife for Isaac. He traveled from Canaan to Nahor where Abraham's kindred resided, and there God provided a woman named Rebekah. Eliezer was obedient to Abraham's instructions, even when it would have been easy to settle for less than Abraham's desire, and he depended on God to provide. Rebekah displayed godly character, drawing water from the well for Eliezer and all of his camels. She also welcomed him with a place to stay for the night. Eliezer returned to Canaan with Rebekah, who left her family and home to become Isaac's wife. The providential nature of the events that occurred reveals God's sovereignty and provision for two people of godly character who depended on God to live in His will.

Do you faithfully follow and obey God's commands? Can you be described as being of godly character? What responsibilities has God appointed to you? How do you take ownership of these responsibilities in a godly manner? How do you depend on God to help you live in a manner worthy of the Gospel? Study scriptures about character and hard work, such as Colossians 3:23-25, Philippians 1:27, 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, and Galatians 5:22. How well does your life live up to these scriptures? Are there areas that you need to come before God in repentance? Remember that God is not only concerned with your actions, but also with your *heart*, which is the source of your actions. He wants to sanctify you and make you holy by changing your heart to become more like Jesus. Spend some time in prayer over what it looks like to have godly character, and how God wants you to be more faithful in following and depending on Him.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

About Me

Give campers a piece of paper and have them write out or draw some of the things they like best about themselves. Get them started by writing some of the characteristics about yourself that you like on the white board or on a piece of paper they can see. Take some time to let the campers share what they wrote down.



BIG GROUP Time - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

***Take your cabin flag to Big Group.**

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will continue studying in Genesis. We will study God's faithfulness to fulfill His promises. We will see God test Abraham's faith, and how God always provides the sacrifice.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you think about the game show in Big Group? What did they mean by "godly character"? (Living in a way that is pleasing and glorifying to God, loving others more than we love ourselves, being kind and compassionate, etc.) How did Contestant #2 show godly character?

Last week we saw God give Abraham and Sarah a son. What was neat about this provision? God was faithful and fulfilled what seemed like an impossible promise. What did God do with Abraham and his son, Isaac? God tested Abraham's faith by asking him to sacrifice Isaac. How did Abraham respond? Abraham obeyed God's command and was willing to give up Isaac. What did God do in response to Abraham's willingness to obey His command? God sent an angel to stop Abraham, and instead provided a ram to be sacrificed. Abraham put his complete faith and trust in God's plan. God saw that Abraham loved Him more than he loved Isaac, and God blessed Abraham for his faith.

Today we are going to continue with the story of Abraham and Isaac. Abraham has decided Isaac is ready for a wife. He sent his oldest servant, Eliezer (el-ee-ay-zer or el-ee-ee-zer), to go back to his homeland to find a wife for Isaac. Eliezer promised to follow all of Abraham's instructions.

Let's begin in Genesis 24 [NLT].

Genesis 24:10-14

10 Then he [Eliezer] loaded ten of Abraham's camels with all kinds of expensive gifts from his master, and he traveled to distant Aram-naharaim. There he went to the town where Abraham's brother Nahor had settled. 11 He made the camels kneel beside a well just outside the town. It was evening, and the women were coming out to draw water.

12 "O Lord, God of my master, Abraham," he prayed. "Please give me success today, and show unfailing love to my master, Abraham. 13 See, I am standing here beside this spring, and the young women of the town are coming out to draw water. 14 This is my request. I will ask one of them, 'Please give me a drink from your jug.' If she says, 'Yes, have a drink, and I will water your camels, too!'—let her be the one you have selected as Isaac's wife. This is how I will know that you have shown unfailing love to my master."

Eliezer followed all of Abraham's commands by going to Abraham's homeland to find a wife for Isaac. He knew what kind of woman he was looking for: a woman of godly character. What does character mean? (Allow responses.) Your character is the way you act and speak, the qualities you are known by, which reveal your heart and who you really are. For example, if you are honest, kind, friendly, and hard working, people can see that by how you act.

When Eliezer arrived in Abraham's homeland, he went directly to a well. He knew that was where he would find a godly woman who was doing the job she was supposed to be doing. After he got to the well and had his camels kneel down, what was the first thing he did? (Allow responses.) He prayed to God. Eliezer trusted that God was in control, and depended on God to show him who was to be Isaac's wife. He specifically asked God to bring a woman who would show mercy to a stranger in need, and who would be selfless by giving water to his camels.

Search for Godliness



The purpose of this activity is to understand the difference between Godly characteristics and worldly characteristics.

Supplies:

"Search for Godliness" cards (1 set per bin)

Tell your campers that they are going to be like Eliezer and will look for godly characteristics among the worldly. Have all campers stand. Lay the cards out, facedown, on the table or floor. Campers will take turns choosing one card to turn over. If the card chosen is a worldly characteristic, the camper should sit. If the card is a godly characteristic, the camper who chose that card will remain standing. Play as many rounds as needed to have just one camper standing. (Turn cards back over and mix them up on the table to start a new round.)

** Teachers, please binder clip the set back together for the next session and storage.

Tie It Together



Was it easy to find the cards with godly characteristics? (Allow responses.) There were a lot more cards with worldly characteristics than godly characteristics. Because we are sinners, it can be easier for us to love ourselves first and show

worldly characteristics, like selfishness, pride, and greed, in the way we live. Sin makes us want to look out for ourselves and to always do what is best for us first. Can you think of an example in your life where you looked out for your best interest instead of seeking to love God and love others? (Allow responses.)

God created us to worship Him, and He desires for our hearts to be changed so that we can be like His Son, Jesus. Jesus is our best example of how to love and follow God. Only the power of God through the Holy Spirit living inside us can change our heart so that we become more like Jesus and develop godly character.

Eliezer desired to find a woman who had Godly characteristics, and knew that he would have to look close and hard at her character to make sure she would be a suitable wife for Isaac. He depended on God to provide the woman that God wanted for Isaac, asking for her to show mercy, compassion and selflessness in giving Eliezer a drink of water.

Let's continue on with the story to see if God answers Eliezer's prayer.

Genesis 24:15-21

15 Before he had finished praying, he saw a young woman named Rebekah coming out with her water jug on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel, who was the son of Abraham's brother Nahor and his wife, Milcah. 16 Rebekah was very beautiful and old enough to be married, but she was still a virgin. She went down to the spring, filled her jug, and came up again. 17 Running over to her, the servant said, "Please give me a little drink of water from your jug."

18 "Yes, my lord," she answered, "have a drink." And she quickly lowered her jug from her shoulder and gave him a drink. 19 When she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels, too, until they have had enough to drink." 20 So she quickly emptied her jug into the watering trough and ran back to the well to draw water for all his camels.

21 The servant watched her in silence, wondering whether or not the Lord had given him success in his mission.

Eliezer did not even finish praying before his prayer was answered. A beautiful young woman named Rebekah came to the well. Eliezer did not know this, but she was a relative of Abraham. Eliezer ran over to her and asked her for a drink of water. Rebekah answered immediately, without question, by giving him a drink. She then offered to draw water for all of his camels. One camel can drink close to 25 gallons of water at one sitting. Eliezer had 10 camels, so that makes about 250 gallons of water. Do you think it took a lot of hard work for Rebekah to give all of Eliezer's camels water? (Allow responses.)

Let's take a closer look.

250 Gallons of Water?



The purpose is to help the campers understand Rebekah's selfless, merciful, compassionate, and hard-working attitude.

Supplies:

1-gallon jug of water (1 per bin)

Have each camper take a turn picking up a gallon jug of water. Allow them to carry it around the room.

Tie It Together



Was it difficult to pick up a gallon of water? (Allow responses.) A gallon of water is pretty heavy. Now imagine picking up that gallon of water more than 250 times, and carrying it from a well to a group of camels. Rebekah offered to not only bring the camels water to drink one time, but to continue bringing water, “until they had enough to drink.” Rebekah displayed an amazing amount of selflessness, mercy, compassion and work ethic. She did not choose to put herself first, but instead chose to put Eliezer and even his camels first! Eliezer recognized the godly character Rebekah displayed, and wondered if she was indeed the woman for Isaac God had brought to him.

Do you have any chores you are responsible for at home? What are some chores you do to help out? (Allow responses.) Do you do them happily in obedience, showing good character like Rebekah? Or do you get upset when you need to do them? (Allow responses.) Rebekah did everything with a joyful spirit.

Let’s continue with the story.

Genesis 24:22-27

22 Then at last, when the camels had finished drinking, he took out a gold ring for her nose and two large gold bracelets for her wrists.

23 “Whose daughter are you?” he asked. “And please tell me, would your father have any room to put us up for the night?”

24 “I am the daughter of Bethuel,” she replied. “My grandparents are Nahor and Milcah. 25 Yes, we have plenty of straw and feed for the camels, and we have room for guests.”

26 The man bowed low and worshiped the Lord. 27 “Praise the Lord, the God of my master, Abraham,” he said. “The Lord has shown unfailing love and faithfulness to my master, for he has led me straight to my master’s relatives.”

Eliezer found out that Rebekah was a relative of Abraham, and that was confirmation that God had provided the woman to be Isaac’s wife. What did Eliezer do as soon as he found out about Rebekah? (Allow responses.) He worshiped God. Eliezer had depended on God to provide, and now worshiped God for His faithfulness. We can see that Eliezer also displayed godly character in the way he obeyed all of the commands of Abraham, depended on and trusted in God to provide, and worshiped God immediately after He provided. God desires for us to put our faith and trust in Him in the same way Eliezer did. He also wants us to have a heart filled with worship because we recognize that He is in control and He provides everything we need.

Rebekah and her family provided a place for Eliezer and his camels to stay for the night. Eliezer told them why he was there, starting with how God provided for Abraham (wealth, flocks, herds, servants, silver, gold, etc) and how Abraham had complete faith and trust in God. He also told of how God had led him in his journey. He recounted his prayer for God to provide a woman who was willing to give him and his camel's water to drink, and that God was faithful in answering his prayer. He asked to take Rebekah back with him to Canaan to be Isaac's wife. Rebekah chose to go and trust that this was God's plan.

Let's see what happens when she gets to Canaan.

Genesis 24:62-67

62 Meanwhile, Isaac, whose home was in the Negev, had returned from Beer-lahai-roi. 63 One evening as he was walking and meditating in the fields, he looked up and saw the camels coming. 64 When Rebekah looked up and saw Isaac, she quickly dismounted from her camel. 65 "Who is that man walking through the fields to meet us?" she asked the servant.

And he replied, "It is my master." So Rebekah covered her face with her veil. 66 Then the servant told Isaac everything he had done.

67 And Isaac brought Rebekah into his mother Sarah's tent, and she became his wife. He loved her deeply, and she was a special comfort to him after the death of his mother.

Rebekah noticed Isaac from a distance. She immediately covered her face as a sign of modesty and respect, once again showing her godly character. Isaac married Rebekah, trusting that it was God's will.

Godly Character



The purpose is for the campers to recognize the Godly characteristics Abraham, Eliezer, Rebekah, and Isaac displayed.

Supplies:

"Godly Character" worksheet (1 per camper)

"Godly Characteristics" list (2 per bin)

Give each camper a "Godly Character" worksheet. Read through the list of characteristics, and have campers write the correct ones under each person on their "Godly Character" worksheet.

Tie It Together



We can see from this story many different examples of godly character. Abraham believed that God would provide for him and bless him as he was promised. Eliezer submitted to authority by obeying Abraham's commands, prayed to God for guidance and provision, and worshiped God after God was faithful. Rebekah showed mercy, compassion, selflessness, hard-working, modesty, respect, and trusted in and followed God. Isaac did not question anything about Rebekah, but trusted that she was who God wanted for his wife, and loved her deeply, just as God desires for us to do in marriage.

We can learn from each one of these people how to put our faith and trust in God, and how to depend on him for our life. God knows what is best, and He desires for us to grow closer to Him so that we can become more like His Son, Jesus. Jesus is our great example of how to love God and love others, and we should seek to be more like Him. What are some godly characteristics that you see in yourself? (Allow responses.)

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Thank God for giving us Jesus as a perfect example of what it looks like to follow Him. Ask God to change our hearts so we can have godly character.



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