

Sunday school lesson – Upper Primary

BIG IDEA	God is our provider
Bible Reading	Genesis 24
Preparation	<p>Read Genesis 24 It seems like God’s promises to Abraham and his family face one crisis after another. First there was the delay in the provision of a child to Abraham and Sarah, until it was impossible for it to happen. Then Abraham was called to sacrifice Isaac, the one person through whom the promise could be fulfilled. And now Isaac has no wife. Without a wife, there would be no further children in the family line. Added to this, there was no possibility of finding a wife from amongst the local women. It was important that Isaac did not marry a Canaanite woman. Although we are told that Abraham’s family were also pagan, it is possible they had some knowledge of the true God through Abraham (see Laban’s response to Abraham’s servant in Genesis 22:50, where he recognises the hand of the true God in these events). Note also Abraham’s vehement reply to his servant’s suggestion that Isaac return to Abraham’s original home. Abraham trusted God to fulfil his promise to give the land to him and his descendants, so it was important that Isaac stay. And so Abraham sends his servant on a mission. We are told little of the details of what must have been an arduous journey. The focus (and detail) of the narrative is the time interval between meeting Rebekah and the final decision that she should return with the servant to be Isaac’s wife. Although God’s intervention is never directly stated, his hand is evident in all the circumstances and events of the narrative. The servant clearly acknowledges God’s provision in his prayer (Genesis 22:26-28). God is not limited in how he can provide for his children. When we look for it, we see God’s hand in our own lives, working through all our day to day circumstances. Just as he worked out all the circumstances in this journey to result in a wife for Isaac, so he also works all things for our good (Romans 8:28).</p> <p>Take home message: God provides for all our needs, so trust him and thank him.</p> <p>Prepare for “Getting Started”: Bring along pieces of card, newspaper, paper or cushions to use as stepping stones, as well as something to mark the river banks (rope, sticks, chalk if you can draw on the floor...)</p>
Getting Started	Mark the 2 banks on the floor. Give the children the “stepping stones”. Tell them they need to get across a “river”. There are crocodiles in the water, and they don’t have a boat or bridge. They need to lay the “stepping stones” down in such a way that they can get from one side of the “river” to the other. Ask them if they could have crossed the river without the stones? Talk about the fact that they need each stone to be in place, and that even if one stone was missing they could not get across.
Finding Out 1. Isaac needs a wife (Gen 24:1-9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What had God promised to Abraham? (land, children, blessing and to be a blessing to others)</i> ➤ God had started to fulfil these promises. He had given Abraham a son. Now Isaac also needed children, so that God could fulfil his promise that Abraham would

	<p>have as many descendants as stars in the sky. But now there is another problem. Isaac doesn't have a wife! So he can't have any children.</p> <p>Read Genesis 24:3-4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What does Abraham ask his servant to do? Why did Abraham want him to travel so far to get a wife for Isaac?</i> ➤ Explain that the people living around Abraham did not follow God and he was worried that if Isaac married one of these woman, he would be influenced by them and start to live in the same way. ➤ Talk about the difficulties that this journey would involve. It was very far away, he had to travel by camel, he might run out of food, or be attacked. And even if he finally arrived, he might not find anyone suitable. And even if he found someone suitable, she might not say yes! • <i>Q: How would you feel if you were the servant?</i> <p>Read Genesis 24:10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What did the servant do? Why do you think the servant went?</i> ➤ The servant was trusting in Abraham's God to provide. <p>Read Genesis 24:12-14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Describe how the servant's prayer showed that he was depending on God to provide (not on his own cleverness or ability) and also that he was wise (he asked God to show him a woman that would be a good wife for Isaac) ➤ Describe Rebekah arriving at the well to draw water. Is she the one...? <p>Read Genesis 24:17-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How amazing! Just exactly as the servant prayed. In fact, even while he was still praying, God answered his prayer! ➤ Talk about how much water a camel drinks. It is likely that Rebekah had to draw up 80-100 buckets of water from the well! • <i>Q: What does this show about Rebekah? (She is kind and generous)</i> ➤ Describe the servant returning with Rebekah to her family home. • <i>Q: How do you think Rebekah's family might feel about losing their daughter/sister? How do you think Rebekah might feel about leaving?</i> <p>Read Genesis 24:51 and 58</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Both Rebekah and her family were willing for her to go, because they realised that God was the one who was behind all this (see verse 50).
<p>2. God provides (Gen 22:10-60)</p>	
<p>3. God's provision leads to praise (Gen 22 :26-27,52)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What did God provide for Abraham (and Isaac) in the end?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A servant who was willing to go and wise in how he behaved - A woman who was willing to come and was kind and generous - A family who was willing to give up their daughter/sister. ➤ If any of these things hadn't happened, Isaac would not have a wife. God provided everything that was needed, in every part of the process. (<i>Relate this back to the "Getting Started" activity</i>).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: How do you think Abraham's servant felt when he heard Rebekah was going to come back with him to be Isaac's wife?</i> <p>Read Genesis 24:26-27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The servant didn't think he was clever, or that it was "good luck". He recognised that this came from God. Therefore the right response was to thank God and praise him for providing.
So What?	<p>Just like God provided for Isaac, God also provides everything that we need. (<i>Talk through what a normal day involves for the children. Give examples of how ordinary things in the day are under God's control and are used by God to provide what we need. E.g. who they sit next to at school might mean they end up with a friend</i>). A right response to this is to praise and thank God for giving us everything that we need, and to trust him to keep providing for us.</p>
Memory Verse	<p>Psalm 145:3 <i>Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.</i></p>

Sunday school lesson – Lower Primary

BIG IDEA	God is our provider
Bible Reading	Genesis 24
Preparation	<p>Read Genesis 24 It seems like God’s promises to Abraham and his family face one crisis after another. First there was the delay in the provision of a child to Abraham and Sarah, until it was impossible for it to happen. Then Abraham was called to sacrifice Isaac, the one person through whom the promise could be fulfilled. And now Isaac has no wife. Without a wife, there would be no further children in the family line. Added to this, there was no possibility of finding a wife from amongst the local women. It was important that Isaac did not marry a Canaanite woman. Although we are told that Abraham’s family were also pagan, it is possible they had some knowledge of the true God through Abraham (see Laban’s response to Abraham’s servant in Genesis 22:50, where he recognises the hand of the true God in these events). Note also Abraham’s vehement reply to his servant’s suggestion that Isaac return to Abraham’s original home. Abraham trusted God to fulfil his promise to give the land to him and his descendants, so it was important that Isaac stay. And so Abraham sends his servant on a mission. We are told little of the details of what must have been an arduous journey. The focus (and detail) of the narrative is the time interval between meeting Rebekah and the final decision that she should return with the servant to be Isaac’s wife. Although God’s intervention is never directly stated, his hand is evident in all the circumstances and events of the narrative. The servant clearly acknowledges God’s provision in his prayer (Genesis 22:26-28). God is not limited in how he can provide for his children. When we look for it, we see God’s hand in our own lives, working through all our day to day circumstances. Just as he worked out all the circumstances in this journey to result in a wife for Isaac, so he also works all things for our good (Romans 8:28).</p> <p>Take home message: God provides for all our needs, so trust him and thank him.</p> <p>Prepare for “Getting Started”: Bring along pieces of card, newspaper, paper or cushions to use as stepping stones, as well as something to mark the river banks (rope, sticks, chalk if you can draw on the floor...)</p>
Getting Started	Mark the 2 banks on the floor. Give the children the “stepping stones”. Tell them they need to get across a “river”. There are crocodiles in the water, and they don’t have a boat or bridge. They need to lay the “stepping stones” down in such a way that they can get from one side of the “river” to the other. Ask them if they could have crossed the river without the stones? Talk about the fact that they need each stone to be in place, and that even if one stone was missing they could not get across.
Finding Out 1. Isaac needs a wife (Gen 24:1-9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Q: Do you remember what had God promised Abraham? (land, children, blessing)</i> ➤ God had finally given Abraham a son (Isaac), just like he promised. The next thing that needed to happen was for Isaac to have children too. But there’s a problem, Isaac doesn’t have a wife! So, can’t have any children.

<p>2. God provides (Gen 22:10-60)</p> <p>3. God's provision leads to praise (Gen 22 :26-27,52)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Explain that the people living around Abraham did not follow God and Abraham was worried that if Isaac married one of these woman Isaac would start to live in the same way and not follow God anymore. ➤ So, Abraham asked his servant to travel a long way to where Abraham's relatives lived and find someone there to marry Isaac. ➤ Talk about how hard that this journey would be. It was very far away, he had to travel by camel, he might run out of food, or be attacked. And even if he finally arrived, he might not find a woman who would be a good wife for Isaac! ➤ <i>Q: How do you think the servant felt about making this journey?</i> ➤ But the servant agreed to go anyway. The servant was trusting God to give him everything he needed. ➤ Possibly act out the servant travelling on the journey. <p>Read Genesis 24:12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Talk about how the servant's prayer showed that he was trusting God to give him what he needed, because he knew only God could help him. He wasn't able to do this on his own. He a ➤ He asks God to show him who the right woman for Isaac is. <p>Read Genesis 24:14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Describe Rebekah arriving at the well to draw water. Is she the one...? <p>Read Genesis 24:17-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How amazing! Just exactly as the servant had prayed! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God provided exactly what was needed to get a wife for Isaac. Recap some of the things that God provided (e.g. a servant who was willing to go on a hard journey, looking after the servant on the journey, Rebekah coming to the well, etc...) ➤ If any of these things had not happened, Isaac would not have a wife. God gave them everything that was needed. (<i>Relate this back to "Getting Started"</i>). ➤ <i>Q: How do you think Abraham's servant felt when he found Rebekah?</i> <p>Read Genesis 24:26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Point out that the servant didn't think he was clever. He knew that everything came from God. So, he thanked God for giving him what he needed.
<p>So What?</p>	<p>Just like God provided for Isaac, God also provides everything that we need. (<i>Talk through what a normal day involves for the children. Give examples of how ordinary things in the day are under God's control and are used by God to provide what we need. E.g. who they end up sitting next to at school might mean they end up with a friend</i>). A right response to this is to praise and thank God for giving us everything that we need, and to trust him to keep providing for us.</p>
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p>Psalm 145:3 <i>Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.</i></p>

Sunday school lesson – Pre-School

BIG IDEA	God is our provider
Bible Reading	Genesis 24
Preparation	<p>Read Genesis 24 It seems like God’s promises to Abraham and his family face one crisis after another. First there was the delay in the provision of a child to Abraham and Sarah, until it was impossible for it to happen. Then Abraham was called to sacrifice Isaac, the one person through whom the promise could be fulfilled. And now Isaac has no wife. Without a wife, there would be no further children in the family line. Added to this, there was no possibility of finding a wife from amongst the local women. It was important that Isaac did not marry a Canaanite woman. Although we are told that Abraham’s family were also pagan, it is possible they had some knowledge of the true God through Abraham (see Laban’s response to Abraham’s servant in Genesis 22:50, where he recognises the hand of the true God in these events). Note also Abraham’s vehement reply to his servant’s suggestion that Isaac return to Abraham’s original home. Abraham trusted God to fulfil his promise to give the land to him and his descendants, so it was important that Isaac stay. And so Abraham sends his servant on a mission. We are told little of the details of what must have been an arduous journey. The focus (and detail) of the narrative is the time interval between meeting Rebekah and the final decision that she should return with the servant to be Isaac’s wife. Although God’s intervention is never directly stated, his hand is evident in all the circumstances and events of the narrative. The servant clearly acknowledges God’s provision in his prayer (Genesis 22:26-28). God is not limited in how he can provide for his children. When we look for it, we see God’s hand in our own lives, working through all our day to day circumstances. Just as he worked out all the circumstances in this journey to result in a wife for Isaac, so he also works all things for our good (Romans 8:28).</p> <p>Take home message: God provides for all our needs, so trust him and thank him.</p> <p>Prepare for “Getting Started”: Bring along pieces of card or paper to use as stepping stones, as well as something to mark the river banks (rope, sticks, chalk if you can draw on the floor...)</p>
Getting Started	Mark the 2 banks of the river on the floor, and put the “stepping stones” in place to get across the “river” (<i>if appropriate, get the children to help</i>). The children can take turns crossing the river on the stepping stones. Ask them if they could have crossed the river without the stones? Talk about the fact that they need every stone to be in place, and that even if one stone was missing they could not get across.
Finding Out 1. Isaac needs a wife (Gen 24:1-9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: Do you remember what had God promised Abraham? (lots of children)</i> ➤ He had finally given Abraham a son (Isaac). But now there is another problem. Isaac doesn’t have a wife! So <i>he</i> can’t have any children. ➤ Explain that the people living around Abraham did not follow God and Abraham was worried that if Isaac married one of these woman, Isaac would start to live in the same way and not follow God anymore.

<p>2. God provides (Gen 22:10-60)</p> <p>3. God's provision leads to praise (Gen 22 :26-27,52)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ So Abraham asked his servant to travel a long way to where Abraham's relatives lived, and find someone there to marry Isaac. ➤ Talk about how hard that this journey would be. It was very far away, he had to travel by camel, he might run out of food, or be attacked. And even if he finally arrived, he might not find a woman who would be a good wife for Isaac! • <i>Q: How do you think the servant felt about making this journey?</i> ➤ But the servant agreed to go anyway. The servant was trusting God to give him everything he needed. <p>Read Genesis 24:12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Talk about how the servant's prayer showed that he was trusting God to give him what he needed, because he knew only God could help him. He wasn't able to do this on his own. ➤ Describe his request to God in verse 14. ➤ Describe Rebekah arriving at the well to draw water. Is she the one...? <p>Read Genesis 24:17-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How amazing! Just exactly as the servant had prayed! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God provided exactly what was needed to get a wife for Isaac. Recap some of the things that God provided (e.g. a servant who was willing to go on a hard journey, looking after the servant on the journey, Rebekah coming to the well, etc...) ➤ If any of these things had not happened, Isaac would not have a wife. God gave them everything that was needed. (<i>Relate this back to "Getting Started"</i>). • <i>Q: How do you think Abraham's servant felt when he found Rebekah?</i> <p>Read Genesis 24:26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Point out that the servant didn't think he was clever. He knew that everything came from God. So he thanked God for giving him what he needed.
<p>So What?</p>	<p>Just like God gave Isaac what he needed, God also gives us everything that we need. (<i>Talk about examples of things that God provides for us</i>). We should thank God for giving us everything that we need and trust him to keep giving us what we need.</p>
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p>Psalm 145:3 <i>Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.</i></p>
<p>Alternative to worksheet</p>	<p>Decorate the stepping stones used earlier with things that we need that God gives us (e.g. house, clothes, food, family, etc). This could involve drawing pictures, sticking pictures on the stepping stones, colouring, etc). The stepping stones could also have the memory verse written/ printed on the back.</p>