

## Story Script: Rebekah and Isaac

**Tammy:** Hello my friend! Welcome to *Women of Hope*. I'm Tammy and Carol is here too. Do you enjoy a good love story?

**Carol:** I sure do Tammy.

**Tammy:** We have a special story to tell today about a young woman who had an amazing adventure, and had to make a very important choice.

**Carol:** It's also the story of a faithful servant who trusted his master's God to help him with a task- one that was well quite unusual.

**Tammy:** I think you'll like this story. It's full of surprises.

**Carol:** Jean's come today to tell us the story. Welcome Jean!

**Jean:** Thank you Tammy. Hi Carol, and hello to *you*.

**Carol:** Jean, is this a love story?

**Jean:** Yes in some ways it is. But listen for what *kinds* of love we see, and *who* is showing love. So listen to see if this story says something to *you* today. I hope you're comfortable and ready to listen. I LOVE telling stories, especially stories like this one from God's Word

This story is about a man named Abraham who lived thousands of years ago. You've probably heard about him before on *Women of Hope*. He was very old and very wealthy. God had promised to give Abraham many descendants who would be a blessing to all the families of the earth. The only problem was that

Abraham and his wife Sarah didn't have any children.

God had called Abraham and Sarah out of their homeland. They had followed God's directions and now lived as nomads, herding their animals among the people of the land who worshiped many idols.

When they were very old God finally gave them their promised son whom they named Isaac.

Our story begins 40 years later, Sarah had died and it was time to find a wife for Isaac to continue the blessings God had promised. It was important for Isaac to marry a suitable woman. Abraham didn't want to choose a young woman from among these idol-worshipping neighbors. And he didn't want to send Isaac away from the land God had promised. So how was he going to find a wife for Isaac?

Let's find out as we listen to this true story from God's word (Genesis 24)

One day, Abraham said to one of his most trusted servants, "Will you go to the country that I come from and find a wife for my son Isaac? Please swear by the Lord God of heaven and earth that you will not let my son marry one of these local women. Go instead to my homeland, to my relatives and find a wife there for my son. He will send his angel ahead of you and he will see to it that you find a young woman there to be my son's wife. If she is unwilling to come back with you, then you are free from this binding agreement but don't take my son there.

The servant promised solemnly to follow Abraham's instructions. He loaded 10 camels with gifts from Abraham and set out for the long journey.

The servant finally arrived in Abraham's homeland and went in the evening to the local well to give water to his camels.

The servant prayed, "O Lord God of my Master, the young women of the village are coming to draw water from the well. When I say to a young woman, 'Please give me a drink' and she says, 'Yes and I'll also give water to your camels,' let her be the one you have chosen for Isaac."

As the servant was still praying, a young woman name Rebekah came down to the well and filled her jug. She was very beautiful and she was a virgin.

The servant ran over to her and said, "Please give me a drink." "Yes, of course," she said and quickly lowered the jug for him to drink. When he had finished drinking the water, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels as well."

"Thank you," said the servant, and he watched her closely. When the camels finished drinking, he took out a gold ring and 2 large gold bracelets and gave them to her. Then he asked her, "Whose daughter are you?"

"My father is the son of Abraham's brother" she replied. The servant fell down to the ground and worshiped the Lord, thanking him for answering his prayer and leading him to the right woman.

The servant asked her if there was room at her father's house for him to sleep. Rebekah said, "We have plenty of room, as well as food for your camels."

Rebekah ran home to tell her mother everything that had happened. Her brother hurried out to welcome the servant and invited him to have a meal and stay the night.

**Jean:** When the meal was served, the servant said, "I can't eat until I tell you why I have come."

"Please tell us," said Rebekah's brother. The servant explained how God had led him to Rebekah and answered his prayers!

Rebekah's brother and father listened closely as the servant told his story. They both agreed that this was certainly from God. They said, "Here is Rebekah; take her and go and let her become the wife of your master's son, as God has directed."

When the servant heard this, he bowed down before God. Then he gave jewelry and clothing to Rebekah and her mother and expensive gifts to her brother. He and his men ate and drank and spent the night there.

**Carol:** The faithful servant prayed a very bold, clear prayer, didn't he?

**Tammy:** Yes, and God answered the servant's prayer exactly. And when he found out that she was the grand-daughter of his master Abraham's brother, his heart must have been full of joy. He knew that God had honored his prayer and led him to the right young woman.

**Carol:** But I wonder how Rebekah felt about it all and how did the family feel? How would you feel?

Let's find out what happened next in this true story from God's Word.

**Jean:** Early the next morning, the servant asked to leave and take Rebekah with him. Rebekah's mother and brother wanted her to stay with them 10 more days. But the servant was anxious to return without delay to his master.

Rebekah's family asked her, "Will you go with Abraham's servant and his men?" Rebekah said, "I will go." So her family sent her on her way with her childhood nurse and her maids. They said good-bye and blessed her saying, "Our sister, may you become the mother of many. May your descendants overcome all their enemies!"

At last Rebekah and the servant reached the place where Abraham and Isaac

were living. Isaac was in the field in the cool of the evening meditating. When he looked up, in the distance he saw camels coming.

Rebekah also looked up and saw Isaac. She asked the servant, "Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?"

The servant replied, "That is my master."

Rebekah modestly covered her face with her veil. The servant told Isaac all he had done and Isaac brought Rebekah into his mother's tent and she became his wife. He loved her very much. And he was comforted after his mother's death. That's the end of the story from God's Word.

**Carol:** Welcome back to *Women of Hope*. We've just heard the true story of Rebekah and Isaac. Now let's see what we can remember together about the story.

Abraham was an old man and he asked his servant to promise before God to go and find a wife for his son, Isaac, among his own people. Do you remember why he did this?

Well, the people they lived amongst were *not* followers of the true God, who made heaven and earth. Do you remember what else Abraham said?

**Tammy:** He told the servant that God had promised him many descendants didn't he? And that the angel of God would help him find a wife for Isaac.

**Jean:** Yes and the servant was very careful to obey his master Abraham. When he went to the well he prayed.

**Carol:** Yes, he asked God for a very clear sign. He prayed that the young woman would offer him water and also offer to give water to his camels. And she did!

**Tammy:** So what was this young woman, Rebekah, like? Yes, she was very beautiful and she was a virgin. So Carol, what did the servant do then?

**Carol:** Well, the servant gave her a gold ring and 2 gold bracelets and he asked “Whose daughter are you?”  
And she said she belonged to the same family as Abraham!

**Tammy:** Wow! And immediately the servant fell to his knees and praised God for answering his prayers.

**Jean:** Rebekah’s father and brother were also believers in the true God who made heaven and earth. When they heard the servant’s story they were convinced that this was really from God so they agreed to let the servant take Rebekah far away to become Isaac’s wife. Did Rebekah have any say in this?

**Carol:** Well, the family went to Rebekah and asked her if she was willing to go. She must have also been very sure that this was from God or she would not have agreed to go. What a courageous woman!

**Tammy:** Finally when they arrived, she met Isaac for the very first time! How would you have felt if you were Rebekah? And I’m sure you remember what happened next.

That’s right, the servant told Isaac everything that happened. Then Isaac took Rebekah into his home to become his wife.

**Carol:** And my favorite part is that God’s word says: ‘Isaac loved her very much!’ So it *is* a love story!

Jean: Yes, Isaac loved Rebekah. But did you notice the loving respect that Abraham had for Isaac, the servant had for his master...

**Tammy:** and Rebekah's parents showed respect and love for her too. But most of all God showed his love.

Now let's think about what this story means to *us*. It's in God's word for a purpose!

**Carol:** It really shows me how God is faithful to his promises. He promised to give Abraham many descendants who would be a people of faith.

**Tammy:** When I first heard this story I wondered why Isaac couldn't marry one of the local young women. Then I realized – oh of course, she wouldn't know the true God – the one who made heaven and earth! How could she be a faithful partner to Isaac in carrying out God's plans?

**Jean:** Yes, when a husband and wife have the same commitment to the true God then they can pass on the truth to their children.

**Tammy:** And Abraham, he was really confident that God would lead the servant to the right young woman for his son Isaac wasn't he?

**Jean:** Yes he was! God had made him a promise and he had complete trust in God's promise. He had seen God's faithfulness when God had given him a son in his old age.

**Carol:** When God gives us a promise in his word we can really trust him to do it!

**Tammy:** I like how bold the servant was when he prayed. He trusted God too. He asked God for exactly what he needed.

**Carol:** Yes he did and God clearly answered his prayer. Do you ask God in your prayers for exactly what you need? Do you feel confident that he hears you?

Because he does! He cares about all the details of your life.

**Jean:** Including whether you marry and who you marry!

**Tammy:** I was surprised that Rebekah's family let their lovely daughter go off with a stranger! I guess they put their faith into action too didn't they!

**Carol:** They sure did. But didn't you like it when the family asked Rebekah if she wanted to go or not? They let her make the final decision, didn't they? They showed her great respect.

**Jean:** Yes they did and Abraham's servant treated her with a lot of respect too. People who follow God should treat women with the same respect that God gives to women.

**Tammy:** Right, because *God values each woman* even if they don't feel valued by those around them. Do you ever feel that you're of no value that you're useless or unwanted? God doesn't see you that way. He created you, just as you are. He loves you. You are precious to him.

**Carol:** This story reminds me again how God was involved in the lives of all the people in the story.

**Tammy:** It's so exciting to see how God had a good plan for each one in the story, isn't it? He truly cares about each person.

**Jean:** But it was also part of God's big plan! Through Abraham and his family he promised to bring blessing to *every* nation. Centuries later Jesus came from this family and fulfilled that promise. Jesus came and lived on this earth – and obeyed his father, God, when he gave his life for us to take the punishment for the wrong things we do. And so we can be blessed as we accept the gift that he

offers us – to become his children.

**Carol:** And you know, just like Rebekah, we all have choices to make too. What choices are you facing today? Have you asked God to give you wisdom to guide you to make the right choice?

**Tammy:** There's a great promise in God's Word about that, let me read it to you, "If any of you need wisdom, you should ask God, and it will be given to you. God is generous and won't correct you for asking." (James 1:5 CEV)

**Carol:** We'd like to invite you to take some time to ask God to help you make the right choices in your life. Ask him to guide you each step of the way. You can be sure he will keep his promise! He leads us when we say yes to his ways. He is a trustworthy God.

**Tammy:** Thank you, my friend, for being with us today. I hope you will remember this story and share it with someone else because it's a beautiful true story from God's Word and it gives us a lot to think about. Thank you, Jean for telling us this story.

**Jean:** It's been a pleasure to be with you. Remember – God *is* faithful. You *can* trust him, because he *loves* you. You are valuable to him.

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