

# Rebekah is a Willing Helper

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## **Scene Summary**

Rebekah is a willing helper presents the story of how Rebekah was rewarded for doing more than was required of her. Scenens include: Eliezer (Abraham's chief servant) travels with his camel caravan to Haran...he prayers beside the well...he asks Rebekah for a drink...she draws water for his thirsty camels, too...the servant gives her gold jewelry...her brother Laban offers hospitality...Eliezer tells the family about God's blessing on Abraham, their relative...he reveals that he is seeking a bride for Abraham's son...he asks for permission to take Rebekah back with him as Isaac's bride.

## **Scripture**

(Gen 24 NIV) Abraham was now old and well advanced in years, and the LORD had blessed him in every way. {2} He said to the chief servant in his household, the one in charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh. {3} I want you to swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living, {4} but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac." {5} The servant asked him, "What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to this land? Shall I then take your son back to the country you came from?" {6} "Make sure that you do not take my son back there," Abraham said. {7} "The LORD, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father's household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, 'To your offspring I will give this land'--he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there. {8} If the woman is unwilling to come back with you, then you will be released from this oath of mine. Only do not take my son back there." {9} So the servant put his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham and swore an oath to him concerning this matter. {10} Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and left, taking with him all kinds of good things from his master. He set out for Aram Naharaim and made his way to the town of Nahor. {11} He had the camels kneel down near the well outside the town; it was toward evening, the time the women go out to draw water. {12} Then he prayed, "O LORD, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. {13} See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. {14} May it be that when I say to a girl, 'Please

let down your jar that I may have a drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too'-- let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master." {15} Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, who was the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor. {16} The girl was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had ever lain with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar and came up again. {17} The servant hurried to meet her and said, "Please give me a little water from your jar." {18} "Drink, my lord," she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink. {19} After she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels too, until they have finished drinking." {20} So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, ran back to the well to draw more water, and drew enough for all his camels. {21} Without saying a word, the man watched her closely to learn whether or not the LORD had made his journey successful. {22} When the camels had finished drinking, the man took out a gold nose ring weighing a beka and two gold bracelets weighing ten shekels. {23} Then he asked, "Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?" {24} She answered him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son that Milcah bore to Nahor." {25} And she added, "We have plenty of straw and fodder, as well as room for you to spend the night." {26} Then the man bowed down and worshiped the LORD, {27} saying, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned his kindness and faithfulness to my master. As for me, the LORD has led me on the journey to the house of my master's relatives." {28} The girl ran and told her mother's household about these things. {29} Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban, and he hurried out to the man at the spring. {30} As soon as he had seen the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and had heard Rebekah tell what the man said to her, he went out to the man and found him standing by the camels near the spring. {31} "Come, you who are blessed by the LORD," he said. "Why are you standing out here? I have prepared the house and a place for the camels." {32} So the man went to the house, and the camels were unloaded. Straw and fodder were brought for the camels, and water for him and his men to wash their feet. {33} Then food was set before him, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told you what I have to say." "Then tell us," Laban said. {34} So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. {35} The LORD has blessed my master abundantly, and he has become wealthy. He has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, menservants and maidservants, and camels and donkeys. {36} My master's wife Sarah has borne him a son in her old age, and he has given him everything he owns. {37} And my master made me swear an oath, and said, 'You must not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live, {38} but go to my father's family and to my own clan, and get a wife for my son.' {39} "Then I asked my master, 'What if the woman will not come back with me?' {40} "He replied, 'The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and make your journey a success, so that you can get a wife for my son from my own clan and from my father's family. {41} Then, when you go to my clan, you will be released from my oath even if they refuse to give her to you--you will be released from my oath.' {42} "When I came to the spring today, I said, 'O LORD, God of my master Abraham, if you will, please grant success to the journey on which I have come. {43} See, I am standing beside this spring; if a maiden comes out to draw water and I say to her, "Please let me drink a little water from your jar," {44} and if she says to me, "Drink, and I'll draw water for your camels too," let her be the one the LORD has chosen for my master's son.' {45} "Before I finished praying in my heart, Rebekah came out, with her jar on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water, and I said to her, 'Please give me a drink.' {46} "She quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder and said,

'Drink, and I'll water your camels too.' So I drank, and she watered the camels also. {47} "I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' "She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel son of Nahor, whom Milcah bore to him.' "Then I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her arms, {48} and I bowed down and worshiped the LORD. I praised the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to get the granddaughter of my master's brother for his son. {49} Now if you will show kindness and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so I may know which way to turn." {50} Laban and Bethuel answered, "This is from the LORD; we can say nothing to you one way or the other. {51} Here is Rebekah; take her and go, and let her become the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has directed." {52} When Abraham's servant heard what they said, he bowed down to the ground before the LORD. {53} Then the servant brought out gold and silver jewelry and articles of clothing and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave costly gifts to her brother and to her mother. {54} Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night there. When they got up the next morning, he said, "Send me on my way to my master." {55} But her brother and her mother replied, "Let the girl remain with us ten days or so; then you may go." {56} But he said to them, "Do not detain me, now that the LORD has granted success to my journey. Send me on my way so I may go to my master." {57} Then they said, "Let's call the girl and ask her about it." {58} So they called Rebekah and asked her, "Will you go with this man?" "I will go," she said. {59} So they sent their sister Rebekah on her way, along with her nurse and Abraham's servant and his men. {60} And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "Our sister, may you increase to thousands upon thousands; may your offspring possess the gates of their enemies." {61} Then Rebekah and her maids got ready and mounted their camels and went back with the man. So the servant took Rebekah and left. {62} Now Isaac had come from Beer Lahai Roi, for he was living in the Negev. {63} He went out to the field one evening to meditate, and as he looked up, he saw camels approaching. {64} Rebekah also looked up and saw Isaac. She got down from her camel {65} and asked the servant, "Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?" "He is my master," the servant answered. So she took her veil and covered herself. {66} Then the servant told Isaac all he had done. {67} Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

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## **Players**

- **Narrator** – The play's "catechist" or teacher should be a good reader with a clear voice.
- **Abraham** – Should be played as an older person, with great authority.
- **Eliezer** – Abraham's trusted servant and head of the household.
- **Rebekah** – Very hard working, energetic and happy person.
- **Bethuel** – Also an older figure, head of the family.
- **Laban** – Rebekah's brother, played as someone crafty.

## **Special Props**

- Normal items from the prop box such as cloaks, veils, robes and headdresses.

### ***Script – Rebekah is a Willing Helper***

**Abraham:** Go to my country and my people and choose a bride for my son Isaac.

**Narrator:** For many days Eliezer traveled. Up and down mountains and over lonely dirt roads. He also led his caravan of ten camels across the hot desert sands.

**Eliezer:** That must be Aram, where the people of my master Abraham lived.

**Narrator:** It was late afternoon when Eliezer made his camels kneel near the well outside the city.

**Eliezer:** Soon, all the daughters of the city will come for water for the evening meal. But how will I know which one to choose? I need God's help. [speaking in prayer to God] Lord, I will ask one of these daughters for a drink and if she gives it to me and then offers to draw up water for my thirsty camels too, then I will know that she is the right girl.

**Narrator:** When Eliezer opened his eyes, he saw a young woman coming to the well. He watched as she let down her pitcher into the well and pulled it up again.

**Eliezer:** [thinking to himself] She is very pretty. I wonder if she is the one? [to Rebekah] I have traveled a long way and I'm very thirsty. Please give me a drink.

**Rebekah:** Here sir, drink from my pitcher. Your camels must be thirsty. I will get water for them too.

**Eliezer:** Thank you.

**Narrator:** Eliezer watched as the girl made many trips from the well to the water trough. Finally, the camels had enough water.

**Eliezer:** You have worked very hard. [reaching into a special bag] I want you to have these two golden bracelets and this earring.

**Rebekah:** [excited] They are beautiful!

**Eliezer:** Who is your father? Does he have room for me to stay overnight?

**Rebekah:** I am Rebekah and my father is Bethuel son of Milcah. Yes, we have room for you, come this way.

**Narrator:** Eliezer smiled as he watched Rebekah hurry toward her home.

**Eliezer:** [to himself] My master will be pleased. Rebekah is a pretty girl and the daughter of Abraham's nephew. [looking up] Lord God, thank you for answering my prayer.

**Laban:** [going up to Eliezer] I am Laban, Rebekah's brother. We are pleased to have you stay with us. We have made a place for your camels. Follow me and come to our house. We will help you unload and get settled for the night.

**Eliezer:** I am Abraham's chief servant.

**Laban:** Abraham is my uncle! We haven't heard from him in years. How is he?

**Eliezer:** God has been very good to Abraham. He has large flocks of sheep and goats and camels. He has much gold and silver. He has many servants. [pause] He has one son, Isaac. Abraham wants Isaac to marry a girl from his own people, one who loves God. I asked God to help me find the right girl. God showed me that Rebekah is the one. [pause] Are you willing to let her go with me?

**Bethuel:** [pause] Yes, she may go.

**Eliezer:** [looking up] Thank God! [now speaking to Laban] Here are some things from my master Abraham to the new bride.

**Narrator:** Eliezer gave wonderful gifts to Rebekah. Jewels set in gold and silver. Clothes made of fine cloth and beautiful colors. He gave many gifts to her father and mother, and also to Laban. Rebekah smiled and her eyes sparkled as she thought about how God had answered E's prayer.

The End

## ***Supplemental Information***

In our time and country, a young man and a young woman fall in love and decide to get married. They tell their parents and friends of their plans. In Bible days and in other places still today, the father or parents chose the bride for his son.

Abraham and his son Isaac loved God. The young women that lived near them did not believe in God. Abraham wanted his son to marry a woman that believed in God. Abraham sent his most trusted servant on a long journey to Heron where Abraham's relatives lived.

Eliezer wanted to make sure that he chose the right girl, so he asked for God's help. Rebekah was a kind and thoughtful young woman. She had to work very hard to draw water from the well for E's ten thirsty camels.

It was the custom for the father to send lovely gifts to the young woman who had been chosen to be the bride. He sent the best gifts he could afford. Since Abraham was very rich man, he sent ten camel loads of fine gifts. After Rebekah had given water to all of E's camels, she received two gold bracelets and a gold earring. These were very expensive gifts.

Eliezer was especially glad to learn that Rebekah was the granddaughter of his brother Nehor. {check this out} In those days, cousins and other relatives often married. Eliezer told the family who he was and why he had come. They were very glad and Rebekah's father agreed she should go and marry Isaac. Then Eliezer brought out the gifts Abraham had sent. For Rebekah, there were many kinds of gold and silver jewelry. There were bracelets, chains, rings for her fingers and even rings for her nose. Yes, in those days, women sometimes wore jewelry even in their noses too. There were bracelets for high on her arms and on her ankles. Abraham had also sent along fine clothing. There were colorful tunics, cloaks and coats. There may also have been pieces of fine cloth that could be made into beautiful garments. There were lovely gifts for Rebekah's father, mother and brother also.

Even though Rebekah had never seen Isaac and she would have to go far away from home, she was glad to marry such a fine husband. {edit possibly to family}

## ***Extra Time***

It is difficult for boys and girls today to appreciate life and customs of Bible days. Rebekah generously offered to draw water from the well for 10 thirsty camels. Few children will realize how much work was involved.

Drawing water from a well was not an easy task. The heavy jar was lowered by a rope, then drawn up when it was filled with water.

How many jars of water did Rebekah have to draw to satisfy the thirst of 10 camels that has just completed a long journey? The minimum would have been one jar full of water for each camel. But more likely the thirsty beasts lapped up the water quickly and Rebekah worked for a long time to satisfy their thirst.

To better understand Rebekah's generosity, act out the story. In addition to Rebekah and Eliezer, choose several pupils to take the roles as camels. Provide a pitcher for the water jar, a rope or cord with which to lower it into a pretend "well" and use a waste basket for a watering trough.

After the role playing activity you may want to discuss ways that children today may be helpful to adults and to other children.