

December 2, 2018

Isaac and the Wells

Printed Text

Genesis
26:12-25

Key Verse

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God (Matthew 5:9).

Background Scripture

Genesis
26:1-35

Matthew
5:38-48

Romans
12:17-21

Suggested Songs

If We All Pull
Together

I Have Decided to
Follow Jesus

Actions Speak
Louder Than
Words

Down in My Heart
(v. 2)

To the Teacher: God has given His most prized treasure so that man might be at peace with God.

My Objective: By the end of this lesson my pupils will be able to name at least one way they can be peacemakers.

Gather Your Materials

- Small doll dress or scraps of material.
- Glass of water.
- Resource Packet figures 1 (Isaac), 2 (servants digging well), 3 (herdsmen arguing), and 4 (servant).
- Simple costumes.
- Pencils.
- Scissors.
- Play dough (see p. T-1).

Primary

- Sheet of white paper for each child.
- Waxed paper.
- Paper clips.
- Tempera paint.
- Paintbrushes.
- Tape.
- Insert activity.

Junior

- Paper.
- Poster board.
- Large brad.
- Permanent markers.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Genesis 26:12. Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year a hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him.

13. And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great:

14. For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him.

15. For all the wells which his father's servants had digged in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines had stopped them, and filled them with earth.

16. And Abimelech said unto Isaac, Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we.

17. And Isaac departed thence, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there.

18. And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham: and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them.

19. And Isaac's servants digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water.

20. And the herdmen of Gerar did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, The water is ours: and he called the name of the well Esek; because they strove with him.

21. And they digged another well, and strove for that also: and he called the name of it Sitnah.

22. And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, For now the LORD hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.

23. And he went up from thence to Beer-sheba.

24. And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake.

25. And he builded an altar there, and called upon the name of the LORD, and pitched his tent there: and there Isaac's servants digged a well.

BUILDING MY FAITH

Monday	God's Promise to Isaac.	Genesis 26:1-5
Tuesday	Isaac and Abimelech.	Genesis 26:6-11
Wednesday	Isaac the Peacemaker.	Genesis 26:12-25
Thursday	Abigail the Peacemaker.	1 Samuel 25:18-33
Friday	Amasai the Peacemaker.	1 Chronicles 12:16-19
Saturday	Keeping the Peace.	Matthew 5:38-48
Sunday	Peacemakers Commended.	Romans 14:13-21

GETTING READY

You will need a small doll dress or bright scraps of material, a glass of water, and figures 1 (Isaac), 2 (servants digging well), 3 (herdsmen arguing), and 4 (servant) from the Resource Packet.

Self-defense in the life of a Christian may very well be misunderstood from the worldling's point of view. Practical experience and examples from the Holy Word, however, show that humility, courtesy, and non-violence have repeatedly won more disagreements, and in less time. An outstanding example is in today's lesson.

Place strong emphasis on Isaac’s unselfish attitude. Arguing for one’s rights or opinions is habit-forming and becomes a way of life — one that is self-destructive.

INTRODUCING THE LESSON

“Mother, may I have these scraps from the dress you are making for Susie?” Tammy asked.

“Why, yes. Leave some for your sister, though.”

Nine-year-old Tammy carefully cut and sewed a simple dress for her doll. (Hold the dress or scraps while you speak.) “That’s pretty!” she told herself. She was about to sew the last stitch when the door flew open, and in marched Susie. Susie was only six, but she had a terrible temper sometimes.

“That’s mine!” she exploded when she saw the tiny dress.

“Oh, no!” Tammy answered. “It’s mine; I made it.”

“I don’t care. It’s from my new dress; it’s mine!”

“Mother gave me the scraps, but there are some for you.”

“I don’t want any old scraps — give me that!” and she grabbed wildly for the dress.

“Susan!” Tammy said in a choked voice. “Sit down.” Susan became quiet, and her sister continued, “You know we’re s’posed to talk about our problems! This is a problem. I can sew, and you can’t. If you’ll let me have your scraps, I’ll give you this dress. You watch while I make another one, so that when you are nine instead of six, maybe you can sew, too.”

Susan’s anger was all gone; she smiled. “You keep your dress. Make one for me.”

This story of Tammy and Susan reminds me of Isaac and the wells in the Bible. Do you remember Isaac and Rebekah in last Sunday’s lesson? (Allow time for answer.) Several years after they were married, there was a famine in their land and — let’s listen —

TELLING THE STORY

(Fig. 1) Isaac knew something would have to be done! “The crops have been ruined, and the food is almost gone,” he told Rebekah. “I shall ask permission of King Abimelech for us to live in his country for a time, over in the land of the Philistines.”

“Please do! I know we shall all starve if we stay here!” Rebekah remembered, too, that the king had let Father Abraham bring his flocks and herds to save them from a great famine before.

Moving day was always exciting, and there was plenty of hard work to do. “Here are the very wells my father digged when he was here!” cried Isaac with joy. “Come, let us clean them out. They will give us water while we are here!” (fig. 2) You see, the Philistines had filled them with dirt and covered them over after Abraham died. Now they would serve Isaac’s people and flocks with nice, cool water. (Hold glass of water for a time while speaking, or place in full view of class.)

Isaac lived in the land several years and became wealthy. His crops were always good, and his animals were the finest in the country. This made the Philistines jealous.

When the king saw how rich Isaac was getting to be and how many servants he had, he began to be afraid and said to him, “I think you had better move away.” So

Isaac did just that; he moved to the plains. Now they must dig for water again! Can you imagine what a problem it would be to furnish enough water for so many people and hundreds of animals? While some of the servants worked hard and fast to find water, the others were busy setting the camp in order. There were tents to set up, supplies to unpack, and all sorts of work to do. The place of worship must be prepared, for Isaac was faithful to honor God.

Suddenly there was a great shout. “Water! Water! (fig. 1 and 4) Springing water!” The servant came running to bring the good news. “Oh, Master Isaac, God has blessed you again! There shall be plenty of water for all the people and the flocks!”

Isaac lifted his eyes to heaven and said, “Thank you, dear God, for giving us water!”

Soon the neighbors were bringing their animals to the fine watering place, and Isaac was happy to share. All went well for a time. Then one day it happened!

(Fig. 3) “Get your old ugly beast out of my way!” growled a big, rough herdsman to Isaac’s servants.

The poor men were surprised. “My master owns this well!” they answered.

“No, he doesn’t; he’s just a stranger here. All this land, and all the water, and everything is ours! Move on!” The man waved his arms wildly. “Move on, I said!” Property laws were different in that country and in those days. Many times a long and bloody war broke out because two people quarreled over a place.

When Isaac heard the story, he said quietly, “Let them have it. God gave us the well, and He will surely give us another if we behave wisely.” The good servants (fig. 2) began to dig again. Soon a new well was ready, and the cool, fresh water was flowing freely into the waterbasins.

“Now we have one just for ourselves,” sighed a tired herdsman. However, the same unfriendly fellow who started the first quarrel (fig. 3) came boldly driving his animals right through a group of servants resting on the ground.

“Ha! Ha!” he laughed as the men scattered to keep from being trampled. “So you’ve made us another water hole! I guess you know it’s ours, too, so you’d just as well keep goin’!”

By that time Isaac’s servants were really alarmed. Was this fellow trying to scare somebody? What would the master say about this? They hurried to him in great fear. “Now, this is getting serious,” Isaac said thoughtfully, after hearing his servants. “This is no longer an ordinary quarrel — it is a feud. Let us be peaceful and give them the well, but we will not quit — dig again!” When the third well was finished, the selfish neighbors must have decided Isaac did not intend to leave the plains, for they didn’t even ask for any of the water. “God has made room for us here, and we shall live happily and prosper,” said Isaac. He bowed his head and prayed, saying, “Thank you, God, for giving us peace at last, and for a good supply of water for our people.”

ACTIVITIES

BIBLE LEARNING TIME

P Activity — Role Play

Have the children act out today’s story, using simple costumes as described in the introduction. Before they act out the story, have them answer some simple questions like:

What happened first in the story today?
 Who were some of the people in the story?
 What did the servants do when the Philistines took away their well?
 What did Isaac say?
 How do you think Isaac's servants felt?
 What happened next?
 What did Isaac do this time?
 Then let them act out the story.

P Activity — Paint and Wax Resist

You will need a sheet of white paper for each child, a piece of waxed paper for each child, paper clips, pencils, several colors of tempera paint, and paintbrushes.

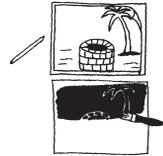
Attach the waxed paper on top of white paper with paper clips. Let the child draw a picture of Isaac and his servants digging a well (or just the well) on the waxed paper with a pencil, pressing firmly. When the picture is finished, remove the waxed paper, and let him paint the white paper with tempera paint. The waxed lines should remain white.

P-J Activity — Build a Well

You will need some play dough for each student (recipe on page T-1). Give each student a lump of play dough before you tell the Bible lesson today. Tell them they are to build a well every time it is done in the story; and they must start over as it happens in the story. They can keep their wells at the end.

J Activity — Interview

Have the children read Genesis 26:12-25. Let them choose one of their group to be one of Isaac's servants. He may dress up to fit the part if he wishes. Let the others in the group pretend they are reporters and are having a news conference or interview with the servant. They can ask questions about what happened, as well as how he feels about the whole thing, etc.



J Activity — Workbook page 3

BIBLE APPLICATION TIME

P Activity — Workbook page 3

P Activity — Well

Make the well that is in the inserts. Talk about how we can be peacemakers.

J Activity — Secret Code

Let each child take a piece of paper and make up an alphabet secret code. He then should write in code a special message about what the key verse means to him. After all the children are finished, let them exchange papers and try to decode the other child's message. Have them read the message aloud when they have it figured out.

J Activity — Application Game

Make (or have a pupil make) the application game as instructed in the introduction.

Using the open-end stories below (as well as others you can think of), let the child listen to the story, spin the arrow, and then do what it says.



1. Steve wants Joe to play basketball with him, and Mike wants him to play soccer. Joe should . . .

2. Jane comes running up to Sally with a juicy bit of gossip about Linda. Sally should . . .

3. Mark says he was safe at third. Billy says he wasn't — that he's out. Mark should . . .

WORKBOOK ANSWERS

Primary:

II. Peacemaker.

Junior:

I. Isaac **sowed** seed in the country of **Philistia**, and **reaped** an **excellent** harvest. The Lord **blessed** him. He **gained** so **much** that he was very rich, and also great as well. He owned many **flocks** and **herds**, and he had many, many **servants**.

P H I L I S T I A
 B L E S S E D
 G A I N E D
 E X C E L L E N T
 S O W E D
 M U C H
 R E A P E D
 F L O C K S
 H E R D S
 S E R V A N T S