

Story Meal

Rebekah

General guidelines:

Tell the people at your table:

Don't eat anything at the table until instructed.

Don't drink from your glass!

Introductions around the table

Go around the table for each of the following. Each time around, they are to review what they said before.

name

location

occupation

“Where did your parents meet?”

Example: First time around, everyone gives only their name. Second time around, they give their name and where they live. Third time around, they give their name, location, and their occupation. Last time around they do all of the above and then tell where their parents met – if they know.

John Walsh will say, “Start the Story.”

Have the person talking about (*Where my parents met*) summarize the rest of their story. Quickly move on to telling part 1 of the Rebekah story.

Story – part 1

When Sarah died, Abraham knew that it was time to get a wife for his son, Isaac. He called his trusted servant and gave him the assignment to find the right woman. He said, “Promise that the woman you choose will not be from the people who live around us. Go to the country from which I came, and find a wife for Isaac from among my relatives.”

The servant was concerned. “What if I find a woman, but she is not willing to leave her home and come here? Perhaps I should take Isaac back there to marry her.”

“Absolutely not!” said Abraham. “You are not to take Isaac back to that country! God gave this land to him and he shall inherit it.”

Abraham then put a comforting hand on his servant's shoulder and said quietly, “The Lord will send his angel before you to prepare the way. ... But be assured, if the woman says she will not come back with you, you are released from this assignment.”

Food – The rolls represent the memories of mother.

Abraham under the Night Stars (story by John Walsh)

“Please Make Her Sweet” Jim & George (food comes during this song)

Story – part 2

So, the servant took ten of Abraham’s camels along with supplies, gifts, and a few other servants, and started on his journey.

People go up to buffet line – when called on to do so.

John Walsh will come to your table and say, “Please go and do you best.”

(You can respond in any way that comes to mind.

You can even have a short dialog.)

Tell your table: “Each of you go to a different table and ask someone there for a glass of water. Don’t take your glass with you. That person will take their own glass and put water in it, and give it to you. Bring it back here and put it at your place setting. Then follow me to the buffet line.”

[**note:** if your table has not been called on to go the buffet line, and no other table is “getting water,” feel free to have your table “go get water.”]

[**note:** went called on, if there are still people waiting in the buffet line, take your people on “a journey” before getting there.]

While people are still going up for their food

Food – Your table may snack on the trail mix - food meant to give energy for a long journey.

(The group may start on their meal as soon as they come back from buffet line. Still, do the first activity until all the tables are seated.)

Activity – Have someone take the yellow card out of the middle decoration and read it to the people at your table. It says,

**“Tell about a memory of a place
you traveled to as a child.”**

[**note:** Allow people to respond until everyone is served and seated. Then move on to part 3 of the story.]

Story – part 3

When the servant arrived at his destination, he stopped at the community well, which was on the outskirts of town. The camels knelt down to rest, and the servant prayed. “Oh God, please help me find the right woman for Isaac.”

Suddenly he had an idea. “Lord, I will ask a woman for a drink of water. I will know she is the one You have chosen if she gives me a drink, and then offers to draw water for all the camels!”

Activity – Have someone take the green card out of the middle decoration and read it to the people at your table. It says:

“Tell something that happened where you saw God answer prayer when you were on a trip.”

[**note:** Allow two people to respond before moving on to the story – part 4.]

Story – part 4

Soon a young woman named Rebekah came to the well. She was very beautiful ... and virtuous ... and, ... she was not married.

She filled her jar, and started to walk away. The servant stepped forward and asked for a drink of water. She gave him one, and then offered to draw water for all the camels. While she was doing this, the servant didn’t say a word. He prayed and asked God to help him know for sure this was the one for Isaac.

When the camels finished drinking, the servant gave Rebekah several pieces of valuable jewelry and asked, “Who is your family? Is there room at your father’s house for my men and me to spend the night?” She told the servant the names of her father and grandfather, and the servant knew they were Abraham’s relatives. Rebekah said that there was plenty of room for them to spend the night.

(At this point, have the men at the table put the necklaces on the women at the table. After the story is finished, the necklaces can be taken home as reminders of the story.)

Then Rebekah left the servant at the well and ran home to tell her family about this conversation. When her brother Laban saw the valuable jewelry, he hurried to the well to see who had given her these things. He asked the servant, “Why are you still standing here? I have prepared a place for you, your servants, and your camels!”

Activity – Have someone take the blue card out of the middle decoration and read it to the people at your table. It says,

“Tell about a time when you were on a journey, and a stranger showed you great hospitality.”

[**note:** Allow two people to respond before moving on to the story – part 5.]

Story – part 5

Once they got to the house, Laban and his father invited the servant to sit down and eat a meal with them. But he said, “I will not eat until I have told you my story.”

He told about Abraham and the promise to find a bride for Isaac. He said it was important to Abraham that his son was not to travel to this area. “Therefore, the woman would have to be willing to leave her home and go to Isaac.” He shared with them how he had prayed and asked God to show him the right woman for Isaac, based on her willingness to give him a drink of water and also draw water for all the camels.

“I asked Rebekah for a drink, and she also drew water for all the camels. I believe she is the woman God meant for Isaac.”

The two men were amazed when they heard this story. They agreed that, truly, the Lord wanted Rebekah to be Isaac’s wife. They immediately gave their blessing.

The next morning they asked Rebekah if she was willing to go with Abraham’s servant and marry Isaac. She thought about it and then said she would go. They asked the servant if he would wait a few days before his journey back to Abraham. He replied, “Please don’t ask me to stay now that the Lord has given me success in my search. Allow me to start on my trip back to my master.”

So, they blessed Rebecca, and sent her with Abraham’s servant.

Activity – Have someone take the salmon card out of the middle decoration and read it to the people at your table. It says,

“How would you respond to the request of the servant?”

- If you were Rebecca’s parent
- If you were Rebecca herself

[**note:** This is his request that Rebecca go with him to marry Isaac.]

[**note:** Allow several people to respond before moving on to the story –part 6.]

Story – part 6

Isaac was in a field when he noticed a caravan of camels approaching, so he started walking toward them. Rebekah saw a man coming their way. She made her camel kneel, got off, and asked the servant, “Who is that man?” The servant smiled, “That is my master, Isaac.” So Rebekah covered herself with a veil before she and Isaac met.

The servant told Isaac all about his journey and how the Lord had blessed his search. So Isaac took Rebekah to be his wife, and he was comforted after the death of his mother. And the love between Isaac and Rebekah was great.

Activity – At the end of a journey, people like to talk about what they enjoyed most. Have each person share their favorite thing about this story.

[**note:** If your table finishes all the activities before the other tables, ask if anyone else would like to tell their story in response to the blue, yellow, or green cards.]