Open Bible Stories

God Provides for Isaac

## 0 Introduction

### 0.1 Key Idea

The story of Isaac and Rebekah teaches that God provides for his people.

### 0.2 Creedal Verse

“By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau.” Hebrew 11:20

### 0.3 Metanarrative Summary

The eternal God created all things in six days. He made a good and perfect world. He made humans in his image to fill the earth and rule over creation. But humans rebelled against God and ruined God’s creation. God set to restore his world through his promise. God made a covenant with Abraham. He promised to bless all nations through Abraham. God kept his promises across the generations. God provided Abraham with a promised child, Isaac. God gave Isaac a wife and she bore twins, Jacob and Esau.

## 1 Biblical Interpretation: Observing the Details of the Story

After reading the crafted biblical story, answer the following questions to familiarize yourself with the details of the story.

### 1.1 Observation Questions

#### 06-01

How old were Abraham and Isaac at the beginning of this story?

Why did Abraham send his servant back to the land of Abraham’s relatives?

#### 06-02

How did the servant find Rebekah?

How was Rebekah related to Abraham?

#### 06-03

Was Rebekah forced to go with the servant to marry Isaac?

What happened when Rebekah arrived to Isaacs home and met Isaac?

#### 06-04

What promises of God were passed on to Isaac when Abraham died?

Why did it appear that the promise of countless descendants would not be fulfilled through Isaac?

#### 06-05

What happened when Isaac prayed for Rebekah?

What were the twins doing inside of Rebekah’s womb?

#### 06-06

What did God tell Rebekah about the number of children she would have?

What did God tell Rebekah about her two twin sons before they were born?

#### 06-07

What was the name of the older son?

What did Esau look like?

What was the name of the younger son?

What was Jacob doing when he was born?

### 1.2 Translation Questions

Use the following translation questions to understand specific details of the passage. Discuss how you might translate these specific elements of the story.

#### 06-01

**sent one of his servants back** Abraham told the servant to return to the same place where Abraham used to live long ago before he came to Canaan. This was the place where his relatives lived. How would express **sent one of his servants back** to mean Abraham told his servant to return to the place he used to live before living in Canaan?

  

**to bring back a wife** Abraham told the servant to bring back an unmarried woman for his son, Isaac, to marry. How would you express **to bring back a wife** to mean to find an unmarried woman for Isaac to marry and to cause her to return with him to Isaac?

  

#### 06-02

**God led the servant** God specifically directed the servant to Rebekah. How would you express **God led the servant** to mean God guided the servant and showed him that Rebekah was the unmarried woman Isaac was supposed to marry?

  

**the granddaughter of** Abraham’s brother Rebekah was the daughter of Abraham’s brother’s son. Her grandfather was Abraham’s brother. How would you express **the granddaughter of** Abraham’s brother to mean Abraham was the brother of Rebekah’s grandfather?

  

#### 06-03

**Rebekah agreed** Even though Rebekah’s parents were arranging her marriage, they did not force her to go marry Isaac. How would you express **Rebekah agreed** to mean Rebekah decided that she would go with the servant to marry Isaac and that she was not forced to go?

  

**as soon as she arrived** Isaac married Rebekah when she came to Isaac’s home. How would you express **as soon as she arrived** to mean Isaac married Rebekah at the time she met Isaac and came to his home?

  

#### 06-04

**because of the covenant he had made with** Abraham The promises of the covenant that God made with Abraham were not for him only, but also for his descendants. The reason God blessed Isaac was the promise he made to Abraham. How would you express **because of the covenant he had made with** Abraham to mean the reason God blessed Isaac was the promises he made to Abraham?

  

**countless** The word **countless** means there would be so many descendants that people would not be able to count them. What words in your language mean **countless** as in so many that people would not be able to number/count them?

  

**could not have children** At this time, Rebekah was barren. She was unable to have children. How would you express **could not have children** to mean Rebekah was not able to have babies?

  

#### 06-05

**Isaac prayed for** Rebekah Isaac talked to God and asked for God to help Rebekah. How would you express **Isaac prayed for** Rebekah to mean Isaac asked God to help Rebekah?

  

**God allowed her to get pregnant** Rebekah could not have children. God answered Isaac’s prayer. God made it possible for her to have children. How would you express **God allowed her to get pregnant** to mean God made it possible for Rebekah to become pregnant?

  

**struggled with each other** The two babies were shoving and kicking each other while they were in the womb. How would you express **struggled with each other** to mean the two babies were fighting one another (kicking and pushing) while they were in Rebekah’s womb?

  

**in Rebekah’s womb**The womb is the inner part of a woman where a baby grows. How would you express **in Rebekah’s womb** to mean the two babies were struggling inside of her?

  

#### 06-06

**two different nations** Each of the children would have many descendants that would become two different people groups. How would you express **two different nations** to mean each of the children would have many descendants that would become two different people groups?

  

**They will struggle with each other** Both the two sons and the nations that will come from them will continually fight with each other. How would you express **They will struggle with each other** to mean that the two sons and the nations that come from them will continually fight each other?

  

**your older son** Even though the babies were twins, the baby that came out first would be treated as the older son. How would you express **your older son** to mean the twin baby that was born first?

  

#### 06-07

**Rebekah’s babies were born** This refers to the time when the babies came out of Rebekah’s womb and were alive in the world. How would you express **Rebekah’s babies were born** to mean the time when the babies came out of Rebekah’s womb and into the world?

  

**red and hairy** The older son was red and had a lot of hair on his body. This may mean that his skin was very red or that the hair on his body was red. How would you express **red and hairy** to mean the older son was red and had a lot of hair on his body?

  

**the older son…the younger son** The babies were twins. The baby born first was the older son. The baby born second was the younger son. How would you express **the older son…the younger son** to refer to the twin baby born first and the twin baby born second?

  

**holding on to Esau’s heel** When Jacob was being born, he was holding on to the back part of Esau’s foot. How would you express **holding on to Esau’s heel** to mean Jacob was holding on to the back part of Esau’s foot at the time he was being born?

  

## 2 Theological Dialogue: Discussing the Meaning of the Story

Take time to explore the meaning of this story together as a community. Use the following discussions as a way to grasp what truth the story teaches.

### 2.1 Discourse Questions

##### How did provide a wife for Isaac? (06-01, 06-02, 06-03)

##### How did God provide a child for Isaac and Rebekah? (06-04, 06-05, 06-06, 06-07)

##### How did God keep the promises of his covenant? (06-04, 06-06, 06-07)

### 2.2 Theological Questions

Answer the following theology questions as a community. Discuss what truths this story teaches.

1. How does God provide for his people? What do we learn about how God provides for his people form this story?
2. What does it mean to pray to God? What does this story teach us about prayer?
3. How does God keep the promises of his covenant? What do we learn about God’s promises and his covenant in this story?

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## 3 Personal Reflection: Following the Teaching of the Story

Take a moment to allow this story to evaluate your own life and to consider how God would have you respond. After this reflection, use the quality checking questions to check your translation draft among the translation team.

### 3.1 Journal Reflection

Prayerfully think about the following personal reflection questions. Write/Record your answers and/or discuss them as a group.

1. How have you experienced God providing for you?
2. What specific needs would you hope God provides for you or for someone else? How would you pray to God to meet personal needs or the needs of others?
3. Which part of Isaac’s story is most interesting to you? Why?
4. How should respond to God as he fulfills his promises?

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