

Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: None</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Cups, serving tray, blender(s), measuring cups, rubber spatula, napkins, milk, apple juice, strawberry yogurt, frozen strawberries, frozen banana</p>
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God has a plan for my life.</p> <p>REBEKAH'S DELICIOUS DRINK: Kids review the story as they make a drink to serve like Rebekah did.</p>		
Upper Elementary	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Pencils</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Serving trays, cutting mats, cheese slicer, lined baskets, apple slicer, cups, plates, napkins, dates, figs, almonds, hard cheese, goat cheese, dill weed, pita bread, whole wheat rolls, apples, olives, grape juice</p>
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God is in our lives.</p> <p>REBEKAH'S BETROTHAL BUFFET: Kids prepare and serve Bible time foods as they remember Rebekah's story.</p>		
All Kids	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Pencils</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Soup kettle, can opener, colander, cutting mats, plastic knives, ladle, bowls, napkins, spoons, mandarin oranges, strawberries, bananas, chunk pineapple, green grapes, red grapes, peach pie filling</p>
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God created each of us to be unique.</p> <p>JACOB'S SWEET STEW: Kids use fruit to create a unique stew as they talk about the story of Isaac's blessing.</p>		



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content. Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find a downloadable Family Page for this rotation's story filled with ideas for families to use to explore this story and live out their faith at home.

Workshop Focus: God has a plan for my life.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids, it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit www.sparksundayschool.org to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Isaac and Rebekah Storytelling

Welcome to Cooking! What do you want to be when you grow up? Allow kids to respond. **It's okay if you don't know yet. As you grow, God will help you figure it out! Let's hear a story about God's plan for one person's life.**

Hand Spark Story Bibles out to the kids. Help kids find Rebekah and Isaac on pages 38-41. Have kids form groups of two or three. **This is a story that happens when baby Isaac grows up. I'll read the story one page at a time. Then we'll pause, and you try to show what's in the picture by using your bodies all together. For example, if there is a mom caring for a baby in the story one of you might pretend to be a baby, and another might pretend to feed the baby. Any questions?** Encourage kids to follow along.

What did Abraham ask the servant to do? (*find a wife for Isaac*) Point to the picture on page 40. **Who did the servant meet?** (*Rebekah*) **How did the servant know Rebekah was the right person?** (*She gave the camels a drink. God helped him.*) **How much water do you think Rebekah had to give the camels?** Allow kids to respond. **God had a plan for Rebekah's life. God knew Rebekah would be the best wife for Isaac. God has a plan for my life and your life, too.**

Let's pretend we are Rebekah and make something delicious to drink.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Rebekah's Delicious Drink

Before serving any food, check with caregivers for kids with food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Ingredients (serves 6-8)

- Milk, 1 cup (240 mL) per blender
- Apple juice, 1 cup (240 ml)
- Strawberry yogurt, 1 cup (240 g)
- Frozen strawberries, 1½ cup (225 g)
- Frozen banana, 1, cut into halves

Set Up: Peel, cut in half, and freeze the banana. Arrange to serve smoothies to another class or to parents.

Activity Instructions

What did Rebekah do for the servant and his camels? (*She gave them a drink.*)

We're going to make a delicious drink as we remember this story. Then, like Rebekah, we'll serve the drink to others! Remind kids to wash their hands before starting.

1. **God promised Abraham that he would have lots of children and grandchildren. That meant that his son Isaac would have lots of children, too. Let's put lots of cups on the tray to represent lots of children.** Have kids arrange cups on the serving tray.
2. Gather kids near the blender(s). **Who did Abraham send to find a wife for Isaac?** (*servant*) **Let's use some milk to represent the servant.** Pour the milk into the blender.
3. **What did the servant take with him to the well?** (*camels*) **What color are camels?** (*brown*) **Let's add some apple juice for the camels.** Add the apple juice to the blender.
4. **The servant asked God to help him find the right wife for Isaac. Did God help the servant?** (*Yes!*) **Let's add the yogurt for God.** Scrape the yogurt into the blender.
5. **How many women do you think there were at the well when the servant got there?** Encourage kids to guess. **I'm sure there were several! Look at all the strawberries we need to add. There are several of them.** Have kids add the frozen strawberries to the blender.
6. **Rebekah gave the servant and his camels a drink. God showed the servant that Rebekah was the right wife for Isaac. Isaac and Rebekah got married and had two babies named Jacob and Esau. Let's add two pieces of banana for the two babies.** Add the bananas.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Cups
Serving tray
Blender(s)
Measuring cups
Rubber spatula
Napkins

7. **God had a plan for Rebekah's life. He helped put Isaac and Rebekah together. Let's mix our ingredients together and see what happens!** Cover and blend the ingredients on Mix for 30 seconds. Then blend on Smooth until desired consistency is reached.
8. Pour the smoothies into the cups, using the rubber spatula to scrape the sides of the blender. **It's time to serve others a delicious drink, just like Rebekah served refreshing water.** Help kids pass out napkins and serve the drinks, and then invite them to have some, as well. **How would this story have been different if Rebekah hadn't offered the camels a drink? God had a plan for Rebekah's life, and God has a plan for our lives.**

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received them, and come together for Wrap Up.

Thank you for coming to Cooking! Abraham sent his servant to find a wife for Isaac. The servant asked God for help. Rebekah offered the servant and his camels a drink. We offered drinks to others, too. God had a plan for Rebekah to marry Isaac, and God has a plan for my life. What do you think God might have planned for you? Allow kids to respond.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

During our prayer, we'll start small and grow as we pray. Kneel or crouch down before you start the prayer.

Dear God,

Thank you for the servant.

Grow a little taller.

Thank you for Rebekah.

Grow a little taller yet.

Thank you for having a plan for my life!

Stand up.

Amen.

Workshop Focus: God is in our lives.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids, it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Isaac and Rebekah Storytelling

Welcome to Cooking. When something really great happens in your life, who do you tell first? Allow kids to respond to this and the following questions. **Today, we're going to read about a wonderful thing that happens in a young woman's life.**

Direct kids to find Genesis 24 and 25:19-28 on pages 24-28 of their Spark Bibles. Invite volunteers to read the following passages out loud. Encourage kids to mark one of the passages with a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice and to use a pencil to write their responses in the margin. **In Bible times, people did things in different ways. This is a story of how Abraham finds a wife for Isaac. Watch how God works in this story.**

- Genesis 24:1-4
- Genesis 24:10, 12-14
- Genesis 24:45-46
- Genesis 24:50-54
- Genesis 25:21, 24-26

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Pencils

What did Abraham ask his servant to do? (*find a wife for Isaac*) **Who helped the servant find Rebekah?** (*God*) Direct kids to read Genesis 24:53-54 on page 26.

How was Isaac and Rebekah's engagement celebrated? (*gifts of jewelry and ornaments, eating and drinking*) **How is God involved in this story?** Allow kids to respond.

God helped Abraham find a wife for Isaac. God helped the servant find Rebekah. God helped Rebekah find Isaac. God is in our lives! Let's celebrate Isaac and Rebekah's engagement with a celebration of our own!

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Rebekah's Betrothal Buffet

Before serving any food, check with caregivers for kids with food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Ingredients

- Dates
- Figs
- Almonds
- Hard cheese
- Goat cheese
- Dill weed
- Pita bread
- Whole wheat rolls
- Apples
- Olives
- Grape juice

Set Up: Wash and dry the apples. Invite another class to join you for a snack.

Activity Instructions

Did you ever hear about someone getting "engaged"? Allow kids to respond.

When people promise that they will marry each other, they are "engaged." Have you ever been to an engagement party? Allow kids to respond. **In Bible times, an engagement was called a "betrothal." People would celebrate betrothals with many gifts and lots of food. Let's make some food and invite some guests to celebrate Isaac and Rebekah's betrothal.** Remind kids to wash their hands before starting.

1. **If Abraham was about 100 years old when Isaac was born, how old do you think he was when his son Isaac got married?** Allow kids to speculate. **All of the foods we serve today were eaten during Bible times and may have been served at Rebekah's betrothal dinner.** Have kids arrange the dates, figs, and almonds on a serving tray.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Serving trays
Cutting mats
Cheese slicer
Lined baskets
Apple slicer
Cups
Plates
Napkins

2. **Abraham's servant had a very important job to do. Who helped the servant figure out a plan to find the right wife for Isaac? (God) What was the plan?** (Whoever offered both the servant and the camels a drink would be the one God chose.) **People had not only camels in Bible times, but goats and sheep as well. Those animals provided clothing along with meat and cheese for families to eat.** Invite volunteers to slice and tray the cheeses and sprinkle a pinch of dill on some of the goat cheese.
3. **During Bible times, women did many household chores together. They baked bread in community ovens and drew water from community wells. That's why the servant knew he would find women at the well.** Have kids tear pitas and rolls into large pieces and place them in baskets.
4. **Who did God lead the servant to? (Rebekah) Pour some refreshing drinks as if you were Rebekah.** Invite some volunteers to pour cups of juice.
5. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 24:50 on page 26 of the Spark Bible. **Laban is Rebekah's brother, and Bethuel is Rebekah's father. How did they know it would be okay for Rebekah to marry Isaac? (They trusted God.) Let's finish our party preparations. It's time to celebrate!** Direct kids to slice and tray the apples and then add the olives to the tray.
6. **I think it's time!** Invite the guests and have a party! **God was in Abraham's life, the servant's life, Isaac's life, Laban's life, Bethuel's life, and Rebekah's life.** While everyone is celebrating, share some stories about how you see God involved in your life.

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received them, and come together for Wrap Up.

Thank you for coming to Cooking! We learned how God led the servant to choose Rebekah to be Isaac's wife. We celebrated Isaac and Rebekah's betrothal with some Bible time food. How does it make you feel to know God is in our lives?

Allow kids to respond.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to stand and raise their hands to thank God during the closing prayer.

**Dear God,
Thank you for helping Abraham's servant find Rebekah. Thank you for joining us in our celebrations. Thank you for being in our lives.
Amen.**

Workshop Focus: God created each of us to be unique.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Isaac and Rebekah Storytelling

Welcome to Cooking! Show me something you can do with your body. Encourage kids to wiggle their ears, whistle, etc. **God created each of us to be unique. Let's hear about some other unique kids!**

Hand out Spark Story Bibles to the younger kids. Help kids find Isaac's Blessing on pages 42-45. **This is a story about Abraham's grandkids, Jacob and Esau. Decide if you would like to play the part of Jacob or Esau. Let's all start as babies and grow during the story!**

Direct older kids to read the following verses from Genesis 25:19-34 and 27:1-40 on pages 27-30 in their Spark Bibles. Encourage kids to mark one of the passages with a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice and to use a pencil to write their responses in the margin.

Invite volunteers to read the following verses after hearing the following the phrases as you read out loud the story of Isaac's Blessing from the Spark Story Bible.

- Genesis 25:23 (The older child was usually the leader . . .)
- Genesis 27: 3-4 (" . . . bring me dinner and I will bless you.")
- Genesis 27:23 (The plan worked.)

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Pencils

Which brother was born full of hair? (*Esau*) Point to the picture on page 43 of the Spark Story Bible. **Which brother was very quiet?** (*Jacob*) Direct the older kids to read Genesis 25:23 on page 27 of the Spark Bible. **Which brother was going to be the leader of the family?** (*younger, Jacob*) **Do you think God loved both Esau and Jacob?** Allow kids to respond.

God made Esau a hunter. God made Jacob a leader. God loved both brothers even though he created them to be different. God created each of us to be unique. Let's make a unique stew to remind us of Jacob and Esau.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Jacob's Sweet Stew

Before serving any food, check with caregivers for kids with food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Ingredients (serves 15-20)

- Mandarin oranges, 2 cans, 11-15 oz. (312-425 g) per can
- Strawberries, 2 cups (300-330 g)
- Bananas, large, 3
- Chunk pineapple, 1 can, 20 oz. (560 g)
- Green grapes, 1 cup (150 g)
- Red grapes, 1 cup (150 g)
- Peach pie filling, 2 cans, 21 oz. (595 g) per can

Set Up: Wash and remove stems from fresh fruit.

Activity Instructions

Isaac really liked Esau's stew. Little did Esau know that Jacob was about to trick him with his own stew! Let's make some sweet stew like Jacob did. Remind kids to wash their hands before they start.

1. Place the soup kettle where kids can reach it. **Isaac and Rebekah prayed for a baby. God gave them two babies instead of one! Rebekah could feel the babies pushing and pulling inside of her. What did God tell Rebekah the boys were doing?** (*They were in a race to be born first.*) **Let's start our stew with two cans of oranges, one for each baby.** Have kids open, drain, and add the oranges to the soup kettle.
2. **Which baby was born first?** (*Esau*) **Esau's skin was red and hairy. Let's add some red strawberries for red-haired Esau.** Have kids cut and add the strawberries to the stew.
3. **Which baby was born second?** (*Jacob*) **Jacob's skin was light and smooth. Let's add some light-colored bananas for Jacob.** Help kids peel, cut, and add the bananas.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Soup kettle
Can opener
Colander
Cutting mats
Plastic knives
Ladle
Bowls
Napkins
Spoons

4. **What did Isaac want to give Esau when Isaac was very old? (a blessing) A blessing is something good, like a present. Let's add some pineapple to our stew. Look at the shape of the pineapple chunks. What do they remind you of? (presents)** Have kids drain and add the pineapple to the stew.
5. **Isaac was old and couldn't see. Jacob and Esau looked different. What did Jacob put on his arms to fool Isaac? (hairy goatskins) Isaac reached out to touch Jacob's arm and thought it was Esau's arm.** Show kids a green grape and a red grape. **Do these grapes look different? (yes)** Have kids close their eyes and touch the grapes. **Can you tell the color of the grapes by feeling them? (no) Let's add grapes to the stew to remind us of Jacob's trick.** Have kids cut and add the grapes to the pot.
6. **What did Jacob serve Isaac to eat? (his stew) We have one more thing to add to turn this into a sweet stew.** Help kids open and add the pie filling.
7. Stir and serve a bowl of stew, a napkin, and a spoon to each kid. **Pretend you're Isaac eating the stew. Mmmm! No wonder Jacob received Isaac's blessing! God created Jacob and Esau to be very different. Even though the brothers were different, God loved them both. God created each of us to be unique!**
8. Discuss the following question with the kids as they eat. **God created you to be unique. What are some things about you that make you special?** Help kids wash up before Wrap Up.

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received them, and come together for Wrap Up.

Thank you for coming to Cooking! We learned about Esau and Jacob. They were twins who God created to be very different. Esau was a hunter, and Jacob was a leader. Jacob tricked Isaac into giving him the blessing that was supposed to be given to Esau. We made stew with ingredients that were very unique to help us remember this story. God created each of us to be unique!

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

For our closing prayer, you may pray in any style you wish. You may sit, stand, or even lie down! You may whisper quietly or talk boldly. Be unique!

Dear God,

Thank you for creating me to be unique. Help me to use my unique abilities to serve you and others.

Amen.

