

# Open Bible Stories — God Provides for Isaac

---

## Introduction

### Key Idea

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

### Core Belief Verse

*"By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau." — Hebrew 11:20*

## God's Big Story

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.

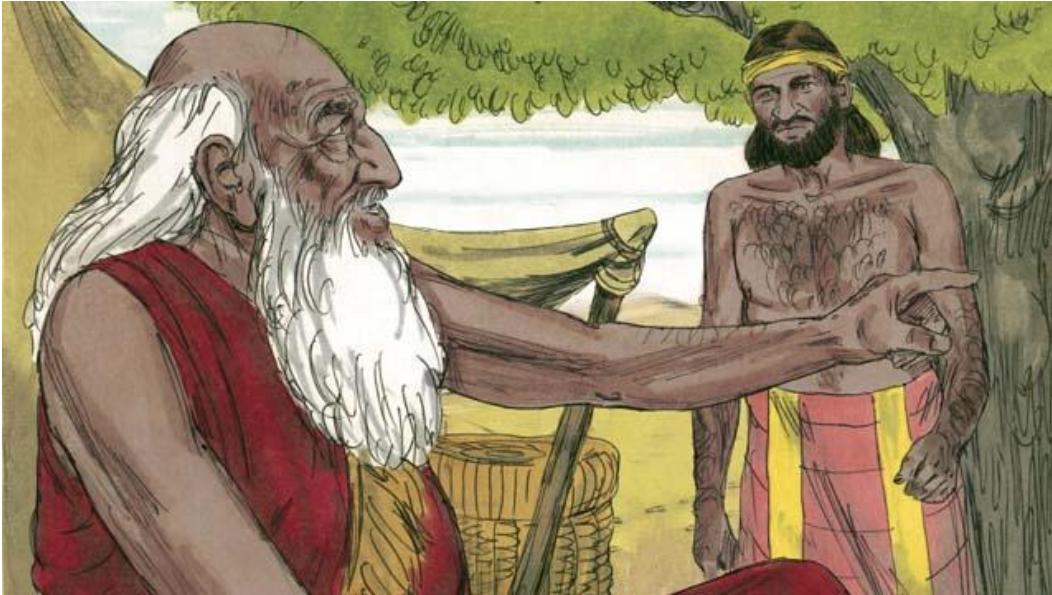
God provided Abraham with a promised child, Isaac.

God gave Isaac a wife and she bore twins, Jacob and Esau.

## The Story: God Provides for Isaac

---

06-01



When Abraham was very old, his son Isaac had grown to be a man. So Abraham sent one of his servants back to the land where his relatives lived to bring back a wife for his son, Isaac.

06-02



After a very long journey to the land where Abraham's relatives lived, God led the servant to Rebekah. She was the granddaughter of Abraham's brother.

06-03



Rebekah agreed to leave her family and go back with the servant to Isaac's home. Isaac married her as soon as she arrived.

06-04



After a long time, Abraham died. God then blessed Abraham's son Isaac because of the covenant he had made with Abraham. One of God's promises in that covenant was that Abraham would have countless descendants. But Isaac's wife, Rebekah, could not have children.

06-05



Isaac prayed for Rebekah, and God allowed her to get pregnant with twins. The two babies struggled with each other while they were still in Rebekah's womb, so Rebekah asked God what was happening.

06-06



God told Rebekah, "You will give birth to two sons. Their descendants will become two different nations. They will struggle with each other. But the nation coming from your older son will have to obey the nation coming from your younger son."

06-07



When Rebekah's babies were born, the older son came out red and hairy, and they named him Esau. Then the younger son came out holding on to Esau's heel, and they named him Jacob.

*A Bible story from: Genesis 24:1–25:26*

## **The Bond of Peace — Maintaining the Unity of the Community**

- **Key Idea:** Preserving the unity that God has established
- **Key Passage:** Ephesians 4:1-6
- **Main Session:** OBS 6 (God Provides for Isaac)

### **Sing to God** (3–5 minutes)

Sing a song together that praises God and encourages the community.

### **Recite the Core Belief Verse** (3–5 minutes)

The verse below summarizes the teaching of the current passage. Read the verse out loud as a community. Read it again several times as a group until the whole community can recite it from memory.

*"But I took your father [Abraham] from beyond the Euphrates and led him into the land of Canaan and gave him many descendants through his son Isaac. Then to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. Joshua 24:3-4"*

### **Read the Passage** (5 minutes)

God wants Christians to be unified as a community. The Holy Spirit unites Christians together to act as one people. God wants each person to maintain the unity of God's people. This unity reflects God himself: one God who eternally exists as three persons — God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. In order to understand God's design of Christian community, read the passage below.

*"4:1 I, therefore, as the prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk worthily of the calling by which you were called. 2 I urge you to live with great humility and gentleness and patience, putting up with one another in love. 3 Do your best to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one certain hope of your calling. 5 And there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 and one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. — Ephesians 4:1-6"*

### **Explore the Idea** (10–15 minutes)

God says that the unity of Christians is really important. But it is not always easy to be unified with a diverse group of Christians. Use the following questions to explore what it means to be a part of a unified Christian community.

1. What does it mean to be one body that is made up of diverse/unique members? Why does God say that the unity of his people is so important?
2. What are the challenges of being unified as a Christian community?
3. How does this passage tell us to guard/protect the unity of God's people?
4. How can you encourage and maintain unity among members/people in your community?

### **Name One Attitude** (5 minutes)

Reflect on the instructions given in the passage above. Name one characteristic or attitude that you want to develop (i.e., humility, gentleness, patience, putting up with one another, etc.). Think about how the community might grow in unity if you practiced that kind of

life. If I developed the attitude of [choose one attitude], then I would help the community look more like this...

**Pray to God** (5 minutes)

After sharing the specific attitude you want to develop, divide your community into groups of 2–3 people. As you pray for each other, ask God to help each person in your group develop the attitude they identified. Also, pray for the overall unity of your community.

## **Movement 1: Understand the Story**

---

*Read each question aloud. Give the group time to answer before sharing the answer.*

### **Observation Questions**

06-01

How old were Abraham and Isaac at the beginning of this story?  
Abraham was very old and Isaac had grown to be a man.

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

Abraham sent him to bring back a wife for his son, Isaac.

06-02

How did the servant find Rebekah?  
God led him to her.

How was Rebekah related to Abraham?  
Rebekah was the granddaughter of Abraham's brother.

06-03

Was Rebekah forced to go with the servant to marry Isaac?  
No, Rebekah agreed to go.

What happened when Rebekah arrived at Isaac's home and met Isaac?  
Isaac married Rebekah.

06-04

What promises of God were passed on to Isaac when Abraham died?  
All of the promises that God had made to Abraham, including that he would have countless descendants, were passed on to Isaac.

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

Rebekah could not have children.

*06-05*

What happened when Isaac prayed for Rebekah?

God allowed Rebekah to get pregnant with twins.

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

The twins struggled with each other inside the womb.

*06-06*

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

God told Rebekah that she would give birth to two sons.

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

They would become two nations, and the older son will serve the younger one.

*06-07*

What was the name of the older son?

The older son's name was Esau.

What did Esau look like?

Esau was red and hairy.

What was the name of the younger son?

The younger son's name was Jacob.

What was Jacob doing when he was born?

Jacob was holding on to Esau's heel.

## **Movement 2: Theological Questions**

---

### **What Does This Story Teach Us?**

1. How does God provide for his people? What do we learn about how God provides for his people from 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?

## Movement 3: Live It Out

---

### Personal Implications & Applications From The Story

*Guide the group to discuss practical obedience from this story and name concrete next steps.*

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. Think about this week. Where does "God Provides for Isaac" challenge you to obey God in a practical way?
5. How does this key idea shape one decision you need to make right now: The story of Isaac and Rebekah teaches that God provides for his people.

## Movement 4: Retell the Story

---

*Invite the group to retell the story several times until they can tell it clearly and faithfully.*

1. Can someone retell "God Provides for Isaac" from beginning to end in their own words?
2. Retell this story again, but focus on what God did at each key moment.
3. Retell the story in three parts: beginning, middle, and ending. What changed in each part?
4. If you were teaching this story to your family tonight, how would you tell it simply and clearly?

### Church Ministry

Reflect on how this story can edify and mature the Christian community. Design a way to minister this story to your church community.

**Ministry Preparation:** Take time to consider how you could minister this story to others. What setting, audience, or approach would you use? Record your ideas below.

**Ministry Implementation:** Minister this story to a group of believers as you had planned. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching or lead a discussion. Record your ministry plan below.

**Ministry Reflection:** Think about what you learned from ministering this story to other believers. What went well? What would you do differently? Reflect on your experience below.

## **Movement 5: Share It**

---

*Help each person plan how they will share this story with others before the next gathering.*

1. Who is one specific person you will share "God Provides for Isaac" with this week?
2. When and where will you share this story with them?
3. What is the one main truth from this story you want them to remember?

Report-back next meeting: Who did you share with, and what happened?

### **Mission Engagement**

Consider how you will witness this story to unbelievers. Design a way to share this story and engage them in what it teaches about Christianity and the gospel.

**Witness Preparation:** Take time to consider how you will witness this narrative to unbelievers. What context, relationship, or opportunity will you use? Record your ideas below.

**Witness Implementation:** Share this story with an unbeliever. Use the information in this study to help develop a natural conversation or teaching. Record your plan below.

**Witness Reflection:** Think about what you learned from sharing this story with unbelievers. What did they respond to? What questions did they ask? Reflect on your experience below.