

Aim of lesson

To show that the big things and the little things we do in our lives matter to God, and that he values even the smallest act of kindness.

Bible background

Genesis 24.

Outline of lesson

A life-changing drink

You may like to begin by setting down a cup of water in the middle of the class. Ask them if they think a drink of water could completely change someone's life. They may think of someone dying of thirst but tell them that the person whose life was dramatically changed did not even drink the water.

Take the class to Genesis 24, and ask three people in the class to read dramatically verses 1-9, taking the parts of narrator, Abraham and servant.

Abraham's instructions

Work through the 'Abraham' section of the workbook with the class. Use it to promote discussion on the practical lessons for them in choosing a partner or friends. The eleven year-olds will probably find it easier to discuss this objectively than the fourteen year-olds. Some groups may wish to discuss it further, in which case you may find the following references useful: 1 Corinthians 7:39; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 5:21-33.

Similarly, read Genesis 24:10-27. If the class enjoy reading dramatically, the whole of the chapter is a good one to read in this way, but it is rather long if your readers are struggling. If you have sufficient time this dramatic reading could be put on tape as a 'radio play'. They will enjoy hearing it played back and have double opportunity to take in the narrative.

Rebekah's response

Work through the section on Rebekah. Use it to develop the great difference it made to Rebekah in being brought into God's family, sharing promises and becoming one of the ancestors of the Lord Jesus. She would have missed all that without that one act of kindness.

Digging deeper

Abraham and the Land

Abraham's faith extended to believing that he would receive something he never did – the land, for ever. We are told that he will still get what was promised (Hebrews 11:13-16).

Relevance to our lives

Much of the discussion in this lesson is obviously relevant to our lives but you may wish to use the ideas at the end of the workbook to lead the class to think of specific little acts of kindness they could do during the week. Next week ask how they got on.

Prayer

Lord God who made the vast universe and the smallest atom, help us to realise that you care about what we do; both the little things and the big things. Help us to show kindness whenever we can, as you have been kind to us.

Other suggestions for activities

- The following question may be used to introduce a discussion on prayer and God's answers in our own lives:
- Rebekah thought she was just offering a drink of water, but to the servant she was answering his prayer. Do you think a little act of kindness you do could be the answer that God gives to someone else's prayer?
- In particular, bring out here the fact that Rebekah had complete free will to choose to give the drink of water or not. However, God, who sees the end from the beginning, knew what she would do, as well as what the servant would pray for. It does seem from verse 15 that she may have begun to get her water jar and prepared to go out before the servant prayed (see Matthew 6:8).

Postscript

Before next week's lesson you may wish to share out the Bible passages between the members of your class as suggested in section 1 of the 'Outline of lesson'.