

Isaac Digs Wells

Bible Story

Genesis 26:12-33

Teacher Challenge

God blessed Isaac so abundantly that the people around him became jealous. They filled in his wells and ordered him to leave—time after time! Isaac could have taken revenge, but he didn't. Later, the king who had banished him came to make peace with him, saying, "We saw clearly that the Lord was with you" (Genesis 26:28). Had Isaac stuck up for his rights or struck back in retaliation, God's favor would not have been so obvious.

In a world where water was not always easily accessible, Isaac gave up a precious resource, showing merciful love to others and trusting God for the outcome.

- ➔ What are some opportunities you have to show God's love to people around you?
- ➔ What good things might happen as a result of the love and mercy you show?

As you seek to follow God in every area of your life, ask God to give you new ways to show His merciful love. Then the people around you—including the children you teach—will see that God is with you as He was with Isaac. And they will want to grow in trusting God and showing His love, too!

God's Word
"Love your neighbor." Matthew 22:39

God's Word and Me
I can choose to show love
instead of arguing.

Teacher's Planning

1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.
2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.



Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

The large group presenter sets up the scene by telling the kids that he had brought a special toy with him today and now he can't find it. He asks the kids if they saw anything. She wonders if Keoni knows anything about it.

Call for Keoni. Call several times. Keoni is hiding but finally, reluctantly comes out.

Presenter: Keoni, I brought a toy to Kingdom Kids today but now it is missing. Do you know anything about it?

Keoni: "I don't know anything about a football."

Presenter: Shaking your head I never said it was a football Keoni.

Keoni: Keoni stutters for a minute and then hangs his head down. Yes, I found the football, but it was lying on the floor all by itself and I thought I could just have it.

Presenter: Keoni, you can't just take things that are setting around, it might belong to someone and it's wrong to take things that are not yours.

Keoni: That's why I was hiding, I wasn't sure if I should have taken the ball or not, now I know I shouldn't have done it. I'm sorry, I will give it back.

Presenter: I forgive you Keoni. I know you feel bad and are sorry. I am glad that you are going to give me back the football. Keoni, do you know who else forgives us when we sin?

Keoni: Our mom and dad?

Presenter: When we sin and tell God we're sorry, He forgives us. He sent His very own Son Jesus to die on the cross so our sins would be taken away. God loves us and forgives us so much! He wants us to be forgiven of our sins so that we can be friends with him forever in heaven.

Boys and Girls, our bible story today is about Isaac and his neighbors who kept taking things away from him. Did Isaac get mad, no he forgave them. God told Isaac that He would take care of him so Isaac could love his neighbors.

Play to Learn

Active Game Center: Beanbag Toss

Collect

Bible, containers such as buckets or baskets, masking tape, beanbags.

Prepare

Set containers in a row on one side of your playing area. Place a masking-tape line 3 feet (.9 m) from the containers.

Do

1. Children stand behind the masking-tape line and take turns tossing beanbags into containers. After a couple of minutes, select a volunteer to retrieve the tossed beanbags.
2. Continue tossing and selecting volunteer retrievers as time and interest allow. Practice reciting the bible verse "Love your neighbor." While tossing the bean bags. One word per toss.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, "Love your neighbor." We can show love to others, instead of arguing with them. Let's play a game where we get to show love.**
- ➔ **Matthew has been a good helper! He has shown love by picking up the beanbags and bringing them back to the line. Thank you, Matthew!**
- ➔ **Brianna, how can you show love at home? You can give your sister a turn with your dolls instead of arguing with her.**
- ➔ Pray, **Dear God, help us to show love to others.**



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For Younger Children

Children stand close to containers and drop beanbags in containers.

For Older Children

Gather different-colored containers, or tape a different colored sheet of paper to each container. Children name the color container they are aiming for before tossing the beanbag.

Play to Learn

Art Center:

Play Dough Wells

Collect

Bible, play dough.

Do

Children roll small amounts of play dough into balls to make stones. Children stack “stones” in circles to make wells.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today’s Bible story, Isaac’s helpers dug wells. When Isaac’s neighbors wanted the wells, Isaac did not argue with them. He built new wells! Let’s make some wells.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, “Love your neighbor.” We can show love to others, instead of arguing with them.**
- ➔ **Julian, tell about one of your toys that your brother sometimes wants to play with. What can you do instead of arguing with him? Giving him a turn with your video game is a way to show love!**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear God, help us to show love to others.**

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For Younger Children

Children simply play with play dough.

For Older Children

Children make “stones.” Say, **Make a well using ten stones.** Children count stones and make well. Repeat, increasing the number of stones for each well.

Play to Learn

Construction Center: Street Scene

Collect

Bible, blocks, yarn.

Do

1. Children use blocks to outline squares large enough to stand in and use as houses.
2. Using yarn, children outline a road in front of the houses. Children walk down the road to act out visiting friends at their block houses.
3. Use the small cars and neighborhood area rug.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “Love your neighbor.” One way to show love to neighbors is to visit them. Let’s build a neighborhood and visit each other.**
- ➔ **Mario, I see you moved over to give Alexia room to build. That was very kind! You know how to be a kind neighbor.**
- ➔ **Being kind is one way to show love to a neighbor. Joshua, what is another way to show love? Yes, sharing the blocks with your friends is a way to show love.**
- ➔ **Stephanie, when might it be hard to show love to a friend? (When the friend is saying mean things. When the friend won’t share.) Sometimes it’s hard to be kind, but we can choose to show love, instead of arguing.**

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For Younger Children

Use masking tape to outline a road across the activity area. Younger children place blocks on masking-tape lines. Instead of outlining squares to make houses, children can place sheets of construction paper or carpet squares along road for houses. Children walk on road to act out visiting neighbors.

For Older Children

As children walk down the yarn road to act out visiting friends, they repeat the Bible verse with teachers.

Play to Learn

Dramatic Play Center: Neighborly Meals

Collect

Bible, toy dishes and food, chairs and table.

Do

1. Children use toy dishes and food to prepare a meal.
2. Children choose who will be the visitors and who will be the hosts. When the meal is ready, the hosts serve the meal to the visitors.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “Love your neighbor.” We show love to our neighbors when we are kind to them. Let’s cook some food for some visitors.**
- ➔ **Emma, how can you show love to your friends? You can share your crayons.**
- ➔ **Kami, thank you for giving Brooke a turn at the stove. You know how to show love by sharing!**
- ➔ Pray briefly, **Dear God, please help us to show love to others.**

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For Younger Children

Children make the meal and eat together as a pretend family, rather than hosts serving visitors.

For Older Children

Children wash hands and serve real food (crackers, small pieces of fruit, etc.) on paper plates.

Listen to Learn

Genesis 26:12-33

Lesson 13

God's Word

"Love your neighbor." Matthew 22:39

God's Word and Me

I can choose to show love instead of arguing.

Greet Each Other & Sing To God

Help children form pairs. Pairs stand facing each other a few feet apart. "**God's Very Glad You're Here Today.**" "**Be Kind and Love One Another**" - Yancy CD "**Jesus Loves Me**"

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Genesis 26. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 13 pictures.

When have you or someone you know dug a hole in the ground? What kinds of tools were used? Listen to hear about a time Isaac's helpers had to dig in the ground again and again.



In Bible times, people did not have sinks and faucets in their homes. People got their water outdoors. They would **dip** buckets or jars into deep holes in the ground called wells.

Isaac needed to dig a well, so his family and his helpers and his animals could have good water to drink. Dig, dig, dig—Isaac's helpers worked hard. The hole got deeper and deeper. Then water began to fill up the hole!



Everyone was happy, EXCEPT Isaac's neighbors. They shouted, "That well is OURS!" They started a big **argument**. Isaac did not want to argue with his neighbors. So Isaac let them have the well. Isaac moved to another place. He told his helpers to dig another well. Dig, dig, dig—the helpers worked hard. Soon water began to fill up the hole. They had found water again!

But then Isaac's neighbors came again. "That well is OURS!" they shouted. They were so angry. They may have pushed and shoved Isaac's helpers.

Isaac still wanted to be kind to his neighbors. So again Isaac moved to another place. And he told his helpers to **dig** ANOTHER well. Dig, dig, dig—the helpers worked hard. Soon water began to fill up the hole.

One night soon after, God said to Isaac, "Do not be afraid, Isaac. I will always be with you." Isaac thanked God for being with him.

Isaac's neighbors came again. But this time they did not shout. They did not push. They said, "We know God is with you. We will not argue with you anymore."

Isaac was very **happy**! He invited the neighbors to stay for dinner. Isaac was glad God helped him to be kind.



Talk About the Story

How did Isaac show love to his neighbors? (Isaac didn't argue with them. Isaac had his helpers dig new wells.) **Isaac chose to show love to his neighbors, instead of arguing with them. We can choose to show love to our neighbors, too. Who are our neighbors?** (The people who live on our street. Our friends. Our family. Everyone!) **What is a way you can show love to someone today?**

Sing to God

We can obey God by showing love to other people. Even when we might feel like arguing, we can choose to show love instead. "Be Kind and Love One Another" Eph. 4:32 Yancy CD Jana Alayra DVD: *Oh I can't think of the title right now, it's the one about doing what's right. If I think of it I will let you know. Sorry.*

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Matthew 22:39, say verse aloud. **Our neighbors are all the people we know. We can choose to show love to others every day!** Lead children in saying the verse. First the children to your left say "Love" and then the children on your right say "your neighbor." Have children repeat the verse in this manner several times, alternating which group says the phrases.

Option: Children name people they know (brother, sister, friend, cousin, etc.) or categories of people (teacher, firefighter, etc.) and insert in place of the words "your neighbor."

Pray to God

Let's ask God to help us show love, instead of arguing. Volunteers take turns completing the following prayer by naming someone to whom they can show love: **Dear God, please help me show love to . . .**

Praise to God (6 index cards with the numbers 1 or 2 written on them.)

God tells us to love our neighbor. Let's play a game to talk about people we can show God's love to. Lay prepared cards facedown on the floor in an open area. Children walk around the area while you play a CD. When music stops, each child picks up the nearest card and identifies the numeral. Several volunteers then tell either one or two ways to show God's love or one or two people to whom they can be kind.