

Here We Come!

Usually when we want someone to do something, we tell them. But there are other ways to communicate without using words. Greet the children with your finger to your lips. Beckon them into the classroom. Indicate what they should do next. Move them from place to place with hand motions, a bent finger, patting the place where you want them to go. Welcome each child with open arms to see if they will come for a hug.

Scripture Words and Worship

Words are important, but so are the actions that accompany them. “Come here” can be said in anger or invitation, depending on the tone of voice used. The words of the scripture are printed, but there was a time when they came from the lips of Jesus. Imagine how it would sound if you could hear him say, “Come to me, and I will give you rest.” What might Jesus have meant when he said that?

Come to Me

Jesus comes to us with open arms.

Scripture Words

Come to me, and I will give you rest.
—Matthew 11:28
adapted

Sense-ations

Give each child a copy of the picture of Jesus and the children (page 32). By cutting along the dotted lines and folding the paper on the vertical lines, Jesus can touch the children. (Fold the children over Jesus and crease the first line. Then fold the children back on the second line, creasing it. Lift Jesus’ arm so that it is on top of the fold to reach the children.) They can color the picture and draw themselves into the scene.

Up and at ‘Em

The story can be told by moving the children from place to place, starting in Canaan where Abraham lived, walking to northwest Mesopotamia to Nahor’s city (roughly from Jerusalem today to Baghdad), and back to the Promised Land.

Story Talking

It was important for Isaac to marry someone from his family with similar beliefs in God. Rebekah was invited to come and she said, “Yes.” Jesus invites us to come to him anytime. We can come when we have a problem. We can come when we are happy. We can come when we don’t know what to do. We know that Jesus will always be there.

Let the children tell you about times when they were happy or afraid, thankful or needed something, and went to Jesus in prayer. What did they pray about? How was their prayer answered? If they could ask Jesus a question right now, what would it be?

Moving Music

- “Listen, Children” (page 29)
- “Jesus Loves Even Me” (page 6)
- “God Is Right There” (page 18)

Live and Learn

The story from Genesis 24 is about a very important marriage. In the life of Abraham, many challenges to faith had to be overcome for Abraham and Sarah to believe the promise of God. But finally, when Isaac was born to Sarah, it seemed to come true.

When Isaac grew up and was old enough to marry, the family faced another complication. It was important to them to make a match that would continue to strengthen their belief in the one true God. The Canaanites who lived in the area where Abraham had settled worshipped different gods. Abraham felt it was important to go back to his family roots, even if it meant traveling a long distance in order to find a wife for Isaac.

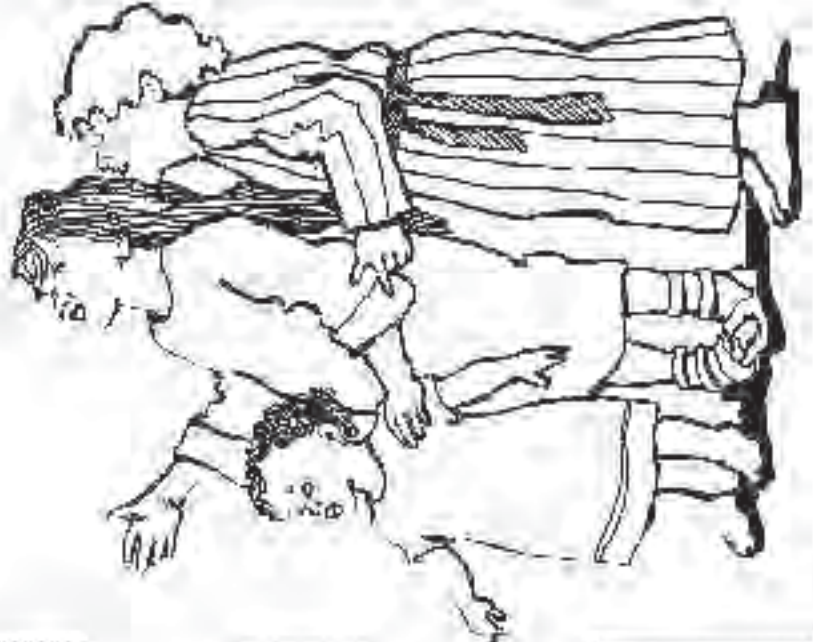
Use props to tell the story. Flannel-graph figures can be created from Bible coloring books. Dolls can be dressed to represent the characters, or two people in costumes can play the parts of Rebekah and Abraham's servant.

- Abraham helped his servant pack for the long trip.
- They loaded supplies on the ten camels, including gifts for the new wife and her family.
- Then Abraham sent them on their way.
- The servant, the camels, and the other helpers walked and walked and walked. It took them many days.
- Finally one evening they came to a city and stopped by the well. People from the city would come out there to get water in jars to take back to their families.
- The servant of Abraham prayed to God.
- "Here I am, standing by the spring, and the women from the city are coming out to get water. I will say to one of them, 'Please put your jar down so I can drink.' If she says, 'Drink, and I will water your camels as well,' I will know she is the one I should take back to be the wife of Isaac."
- Before he had finished his prayer, he saw a beautiful young woman carrying a jar on her shoulder.
- She walked down to the spring, filled her jar, and was coming back up when the servant approached her.
- "Please may I have a drink of water from your jar?" he asked.
- "Of course," she said, quickly lowering the jar to the ground. "And I will get some water for your camels too."
- She had to make several trips to the spring to get enough water for the thirsty camels.
- The servant liked this woman. She was kind and beautiful. He asked her what her name was.
- "I am Rebekah. My father's name is Bethuel. My grandfather's name is Nahor."
- The servant was happy to hear this. Nahor and Abraham were brothers. He had found relatives of his master's family, just as he had been asked to do.
- Rebekah invited the servant to meet her family. "You are welcome to come in. I will find a place for your camels and give them straw to eat."
- The servant met the family: the father and mother and sisters and brothers. They were all very excited for Rebekah. There were presents for everyone: gold and silver jewelry and beautiful clothes.
- The family would be sad to see Rebekah move so far away, but they were glad she would have a new family to care for her. They helped her pack and wished her well.
- The servant and the camels and Rebekah and her maid walked and walked on the return journey.
- Meanwhile Isaac was excited, too. He couldn't wait to meet his new bride. He walked out in the field every day, looking far down the road to see if he could see them coming.
- Near the end of the trip, Rebekah looked up and saw a young man in the field ahead. She asked who that was and was told it was Isaac. Rebekah pulled a soft veil across her face. It was a custom in that day to keep your face covered until the wedding.
- Isaac didn't care if he couldn't see her face yet. He was just glad she had come to him. Rebekah was glad too. It would be a good marriage.

There We Go

Encourage the children to share the story they heard with family and friends. How is Jesus a part of the family?

Jesus and the Children



Fold

Fold

