

A Simple Illustration of Genesis 24 Using Hand Puppets

[Note: We have supplied a template for making stick puppets for those who might wish to use this activity with younger children, but one could make more elaborate puppets as described below.]

The following are a set of simple scenes to be performed while the verses indicated are read from the Word. They can be performed either by adults or by children themselves, but I feel it may be better if they work with pre-made puppets. This is because the puppets are to be used while the Word is being read, and it should be done as well as possible. The children will also gain much by using pre-made puppets, as they will have to work over the movements themselves, and go over the story many times.

The puppets which have been submitted with this paper are intended to be used as Abraham's servant and Rebekah in the following scenes. More puppets of the same type would be needed in order to complete this set. The puppets have been made with a papier-mache head, using sheep wool as hair and paints for color, and simple cloth bodies. It would not be hard for children to make these.

The backdrops required in these scenes are not essential. They, too, could be drawn on paper by the children or drawn by the teacher and kept as permanent backdrops. As with flannel board, these backdrops could be kept and used in numerous stories. An even simpler method of performing these scenes would be to tack a bed sheet in front of a doorway, and perform from behind the sheet, showing the puppets above the sheet. In a Sunday School, with little time and equipment, this is probably the best and most effective way to do it.

SCENE I

Reading:	Genesis 24:1—9
Puppets:	Abraham and Abraham's eldest servant
Supplies and Props:	None
Backdrop:	Interior of a house

While the reading is being read, the actions described by the story can be acted out by the puppets. This section deals with Abraham the oath which Abraham's servant makes; to take a wife for Isaac from Abraham's kindred.

SCENE II

Reading:	Genesis 24:10—14
Puppets:	Abraham's servant
Supplies and Props:	Possibly a camel or two
Backdrop:	Camels kneeling at a well

During this scene no movement needs to be made. Abraham's servant could remain kneeling through the whole scene.

SCENE III

Reading:	Genesis 24:15—28
Puppets:	Abraham's servant, Rebekah
Supplies and Props:	Pitcher, one golden earring, two bracelets, possibly a camel
Backdrop:	Same as Scene II

a little more action. Rebekah comes out and She gives a drink of water to the servant and The servant gives Rebekah an earring and two him who she is.

This scene requires meets Abraham's servant. waters his camel, also. bracelets, and she tells

SCENE IV

Reading:	Genesis 24:29—53
Puppets:	Laban, Rebekah, Abraham's servant
Supplies and Props:	Food on a table, jewels of silver and gold, and raiments (optional)
Backdrop:	Interior of Bethuel's house

Abraham's servant is invited to eat, but refuses to eat before he has told Laban about his master and his purpose for coming. There is not as much action in this scene, except at the end when the servant gives the gifts from Abraham.

SCENE V

Reading:	Genesis 24:54—61
Puppets:	Laban, Rebekah's mother, Abraham's servant, Rebekah, Rebekah's nurse
Supplies and Props:	Camels
Backdrop:	Same as Scene IV

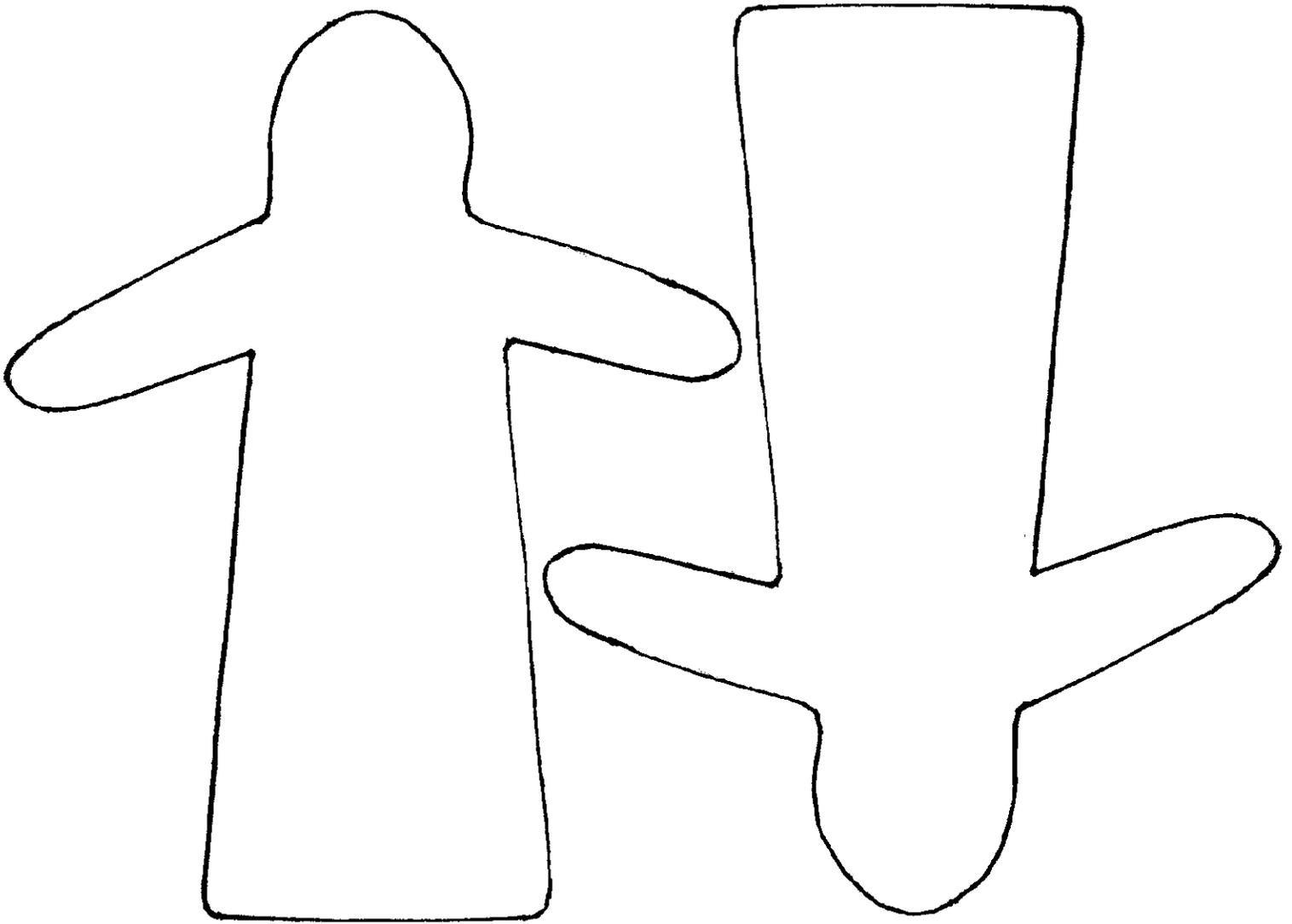
This scene has a fair amount of action in it. It is the consent of Rebekah to go and be Isaac's wife, and her departure from the house.

SCENE VI

Reading:	Genesis 24:62—67
Puppets:	Isaac, Rebekah, Abraham's servant
Supplies and Props:	Camel
Backdrop:	A field with a tent at one side

This is Isaac's meeting of Rebekah and her entering into the house of Isaac.

The directions given for the use of the puppets are not specific at all. This is so there may be improvisation by the puppeteers. Specific moves will automatically be worked out when it is performed, and I feel this will be a more living performance than one that is explicitly drawn up.



Making the Stick Puppets

Materials:

Stiff paper/ card stock, or manila file folders
popsicle sticks, straws, or pencils
markers, colored pencils, or crayons
tape

Instructions

1. Make 7 puppets on stiff paper using puppet template or making your own figures.
2. Color puppets to add faces and clothing for each person. You will puppets to represent each of these people: Abraham, Servant, Rebekah, Laban, Mother, Nurse, Isaac
3. Tape sticks to the back of figure

*Figures may also be printed directly on to card or cover stock.