



# Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lesson

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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Slippery Rock Branch

Today's Word: Rebekah

March 5, 2006

## Lesson 10: "Birthright Blessings: Marriage in the Covenant"

### Are You:

- Paying Attention to Your Spouse?
- Being Honest with Yourself and Others?
- Saying Your Prayers and Reading Your Scriptures Daily?

### Next Week

Lesson 11

"How Can I Do This Great Wickedness?"

Genesis 34; 37-39

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### Questions to Ponder

- What can we learn about Jacob from his efforts to marry in the covenant?
- How might some of us make errors similar to Esau's, choosing things that bring immediate gratification rather than things of eternal value?
- What are some things children, youth, and young adults can do to prepare to be married in the temple?
- After two people have been married in the temple, what must they do to ensure they have a **TRULY** eternal marriage?



Rebekah offering water to Eliezer, Abraham's servant

### President Spencer W. Kimball:

"Paul told the Corinthians, 'Be ye not unequally yoked together ...' Perhaps Paul wanted them to see that religious differences are fundamental differences. Religious differences imply wider areas of conflict. Church loyalties and family loyalties clash. Children's lives are often frustrated. The nonmember may be equally brilliant, well trained and attractive, and he or she may have the most pleasing personality, but without a common faith, trouble lies ahead for the marriage. There are some exceptions but the rule is a harsh and unhappy one" (*The Miracle of Forgiveness* [1969], 240).

### Elder Bruce C. Hafen:

Covenant marriage requires a total leap of faith: [couples] must keep their covenants without knowing what risks that may require of them. . . . Every marriage is tested repeatedly by three kinds of wolves. The first wolf is natural adversity. . . . Second, the wolf of their own imperfections will test them. . . . The third wolf is the excessive individualism that has spawned today's contractual attitudes. . . . Surely marriage partners must respect one another's individual identity, and family members are neither slaves nor inanimate objects. . . . May we restore the concept of marriage as a covenant, even the new and everlasting covenant of marriage. And when the wolf comes, may we be as shepherds, not hirelings, willing to lay down our lives, a day at a time, for the sheep of our covenant. ("Covenant Marriage," *Ensign*, Nov. 1996, 26)

**Rebekah** = from Hebrew roots, it means bound or connection or team; from Semitic roots, to tie, couple, join

### Concerning Rebekah's prayer, Elder Bruce R. McConkie said:

"May I now take our common ancestor, Rebekah, as a pattern for what her daughters in the Church today can do? ... When Rebekah was troubled and needed divine guidance she herself took the matter up with the Lord, and he spoke to her in reply. The Lord gives revelation to women who pray to him in faith." (in Conference Report, Tahiti Area Conference 1976, 16).