

The Peacemaker

Genesis 26:1-33

Sometimes after Esau sold Jacob his birthright for a bowl of stew, there was another famine in the land where Isaac's family lived. Isaac took his family and his possessions of flocks and herds and went to Abimelech the king of the Philistines. He went to Gerar. Then the Lord appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt. Live in the land where I tell you to live. Stay in this land, and I will be with you. I will bless you, because I have given this land to you and to your descendants. I will perform the oath that I made to Abraham your father. I will make your descendents to multiply the like the stars of the heaven. I will give to them all these countries, and in your seed all the earth will be blessed, because Abraham obeyed my voice. He kept my commandments and laws."

So Isaac stayed near Gerar, and did not go into Egypt to escape the famine. Isaac trusted that the Lord would provide for him and his family.

The men of the place asked Isaac about his wife. Isaac told the men, "She is my sister." He was afraid, because Rebekah was beautiful to look at.

After they had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out of the window and saw Isaac and Rebekah together. Then he knew that they were husband and wife.

Abimelech called Isaac, and said, "I know now that Rebekah is your wife. Why did you tell me that she is your sister.?"

Isaac answered, "I did not want to be killed because of her."

Abimelech said, "What have you done to us? You put us in a position where one of my people might have sinned against you."

Then Abimelech told his people that anyone that touched Isaac or Rebekah would be put to death.

After this, Isaac planted seeds in that land and the Lord blessed him with a bountiful crop. Isaac grew stronger and became richer. He had flocks, and herds, and a great many servants.

The Philistines began to envy Isaac. They stopped up all the wells that Abraham had his servants dig while he had lived there. The Philistines filled Isaac's wells with dirt.

Abimelech saw the trouble and asked Isaac to leave the area, saying, "Leave here for you are stronger than we are."

Isaac quietly gathered his possessions and servants and all that he had and moved on. He settled in the valley of Gerar. He dug again the wells that his father Abraham had dug before him. because the Philistines had filled those wells after the death of Abraham.

Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found a well of springing water, but the herdsman of Gerar fought with Isaac's herdsman, saying, "This water is ours." Isaac called that well Esek which means contention, because of the fighting. Isaac

Isaac moved to another place and his servants dug a well, but the headsmen again fought with his headsmen over it. This well Isaac called Sitnah which means empty.

Again Isaac moved to a new place and his servants dug a well. there was no fighting over this well, and he called the name of it Rehoboth. Isaac said, "Now the Lord has made room for us, and things will go well for us in the land." After this Isaac made sacrifice to the Lord at Beersheba.

Sometime later Abimelech and his servants came for a visit. Isaac asked them why they had come since they hated him and had sent him away.

Abimelech replied, "We see the Lord is certainly with you, and we feel that it would be good to have an oath between us. We want to make a covenant with you. It will say that you will not harm us as we have not harmed you. We have only done good to you and sent you away in peace. Now you are blessed of the Lord."

Instead of reminding Abimelech and his men of the troubles they had caused him, Isaac made these men a feast. They promised each other to do no harm to only another. Then the next day the men left in peace.

That very same day, Isaac's servant told him that they had dug and found water. He called this well Shebah.

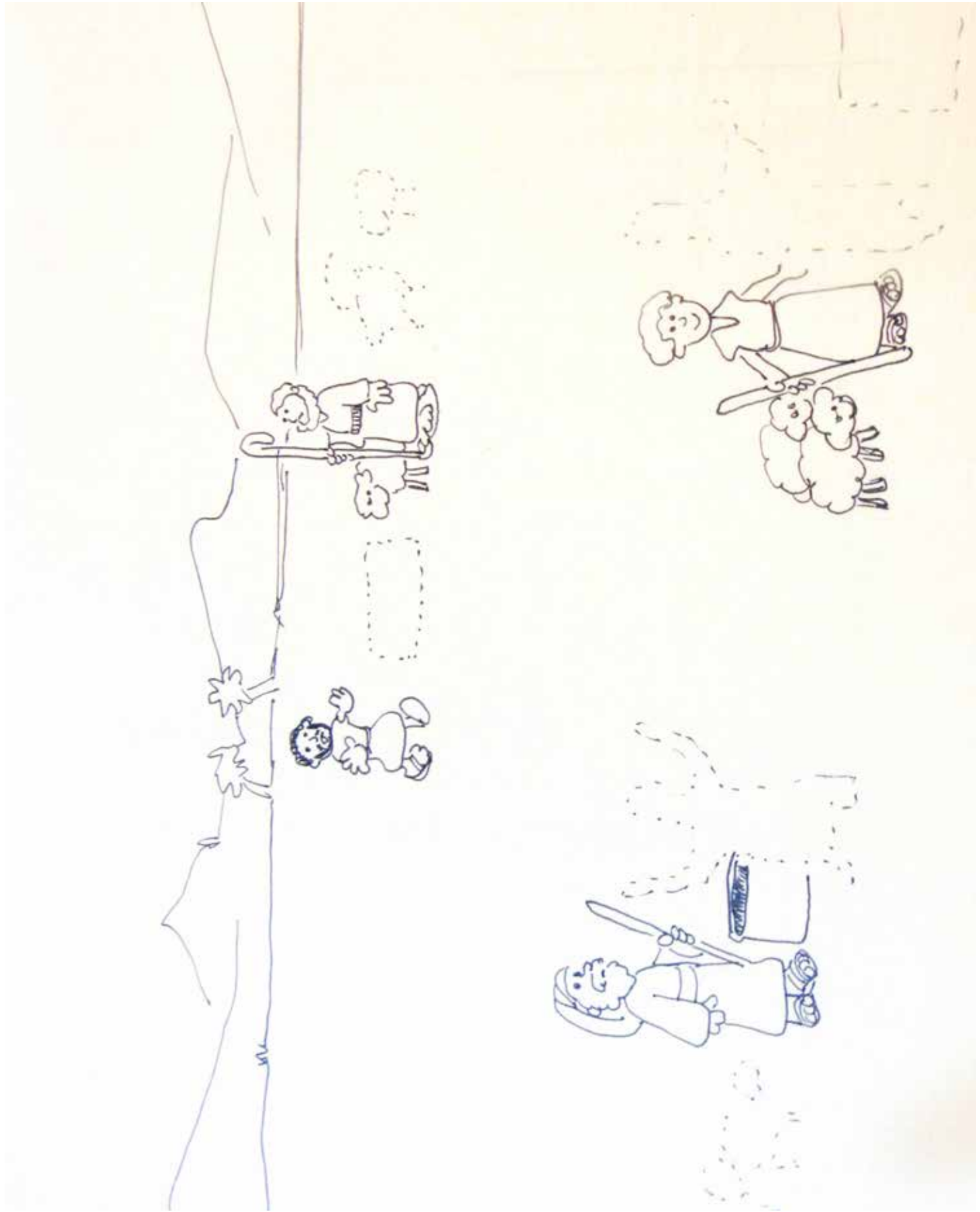
Isaac was a man of peace, and even though he had been wronged by the servants of Abimelech, he forgave them and quietly moved on. Isaac knew that wherever God wanted him, the Lord would make room for him. So it was that at Rehoboth, Isaac found a quiet place to stay.

By waiting on the Lord rather than demanding his rights, Isaac showed the people all around that the Lord was with him. The people saw God working for Isaac. They saw Isaac's quiet and peaceful ways, and they respected him and wanted to be his allies rather than his enemies. If Isaac had insisted on fighting for the wells, the men of Abimelech would have become his enemies.

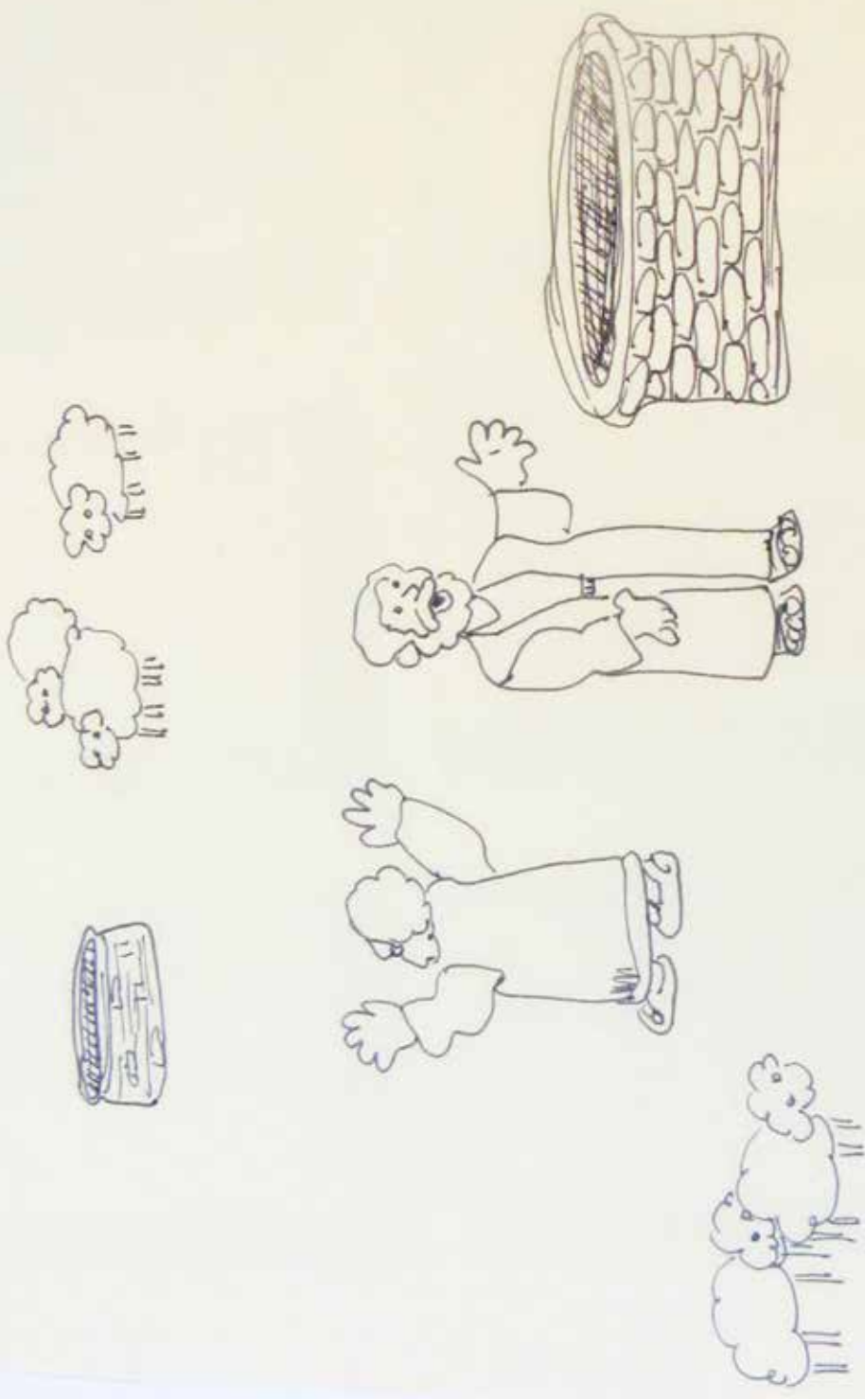
Isaac teaches us all that there are some things that we should not fight or argue over. Our duty in life is to show the Lord to the world. If our behaviour is not honoring to the Lord, then our witness will be lost. Isaac realized that those wells were not worth fighting over, so he chose to leave them and move on. May the Lord help us to know when to give up our rights and move on, so that we will be a witness to the Lord.

PRINCIPLE: Do not fight over things that do not matter.

LEARN: Repent to no man evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Romans 12:17-18



1. Color scene.
2. Color figures and cut-out.
3. Paste on appropriate spot in the scene.
4. Paste cotton on sheep.





Recompense to no man evil
for evil. Provide things honest
in the sight of all men.
If it is possible, as much as
lieth in you, live peaceably
with all men.

Romans 12: 17, 18