

Old Testament

Abraham is tested Genesis 22:1-19

Younger Verse

God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and discipline. 2nd Timothy 1:7

Older Verse

God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and discipline. 2nd Timothy 1:7

Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament. Each lesson will have both Old Testament and New Testament passages.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Ask the kids if they have ever had a HARD choice that they had to make. Explain that God gave Abraham a hard choice—to follow God or not to follow God.

Bible Story

Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do NOT read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.

Teachers: The idea of sacrificing a son may be too much for children you work with. Another option is not to explain what the sacrifice was—just explain that Abraham had a test to see whom he loved most: God or his son. Share how we must love God most of all.

Last week, we learned that God kept His promise to Abraham. God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby. Do you remember how old Abraham was when Isaac was born? (100 years old)

God decided to test Abraham to see if he really trusted Him more than anything. God said to Abraham, "Take your only son Isaac, the son you love. Go to the mountain in the land of Moriah. There, kill Isaac and offer him as an offering to Me."

Can you imagine God saying this? He was trying to see whom Abraham loved more—Isaac or God. That was a hard test. Let's see what Abraham does.

Abraham got up early the next morning and saddled his donkey. He took Isaac and two servants with him. He cut some wood for the sacrifice. Then, they went to the place where God had told them to go.

On the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey. My son and I will go over there and worship. Then we will come back to you."

Abraham took the wood for the sacrifice and gave it to his son to carry. Abraham took the knife and the fire. Abraham and his son went up the mountain together.

Lesson Goals

Share how Abraham trusted God
Tell whom Abraham loved more—God or his son
Think about whom we love most—God or ourselves

Isaac said to his father, “Father, where is the lamb we need for the sacrifice?”

Abraham answered, “God will give us the lamb for the sacrifice.”

Finally they came to the place and Abraham built an altar of stones. He laid the wood on the altar. Then, he did a very hard thing. He tied up Isaac and put him on the altar. Abraham was about to kill Isaac when an angel shouted, “Abraham! Don’t kill your son or hurt him in any way. Now God sees that you love Him first!”

Abraham looked over and saw a ram caught in the bushes. He used it as a sacrifice on the altar instead of his son, Isaac. Abraham named the place Jehovah Jirah. That means ‘God will give what is needed.’”

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time. The angel said, “The Lord says, ‘You did not keep back your son, your only son, from Me. Because you did this, I will make a promise by my own Name: I will bless you and give you many descendants. They will be as many as the stars in the sky and the sand on the shore. This is because you obeyed Me and loved Me above all things.’”

Wow! What a story! Abraham loved God more than anything! He trusted God and knew that He would take care of him and his son.

This lesson is a picture of how much God loves us too. Just like Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son, God was willing to do this too—in fact Jesus did die. He died for all of the bad things that we have done. Why would He do this—because He loved us THAT MUCH! John 3:16 says that God loved us so much that He gave His only Son, Jesus, to die in our place. But the best news is that Jesus came back to life 3 days later! That is why we celebrate Easter! Because He lives, we can have life forever with God if we trust in Jesus and ask Him to come into our hearts. When we pray, Jesus comes into our life and He stays with us forever. The Bible promises that He will NEVER leave us—ever.

If you would like to have Jesus in your heart, please talk to me about it. It is the best thing you will ever do.

Learning Activities

There are lots of activities to choose from. Pick ones that will help your kids understand the lesson.

Memory Verse Activities

Make a decorative banner with the verse. Let the kids help decorate it in a fun, bright, and colorful way. Practice saying the verse together.

Prayer Time

Pray for your people and other Bible studies too. Introduce yourself to other workers at our 4:00 Meeting on Sunday and ask for prayer requests.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Choose someone to help pass out treats and clean up. Make sure the place looks beautiful when you arrive and when you leave.

Planning for March 14th
Jacob and Esau
Genesis 25:21-34; 27:1-45

Preschool Lesson
For
Abraham is tested

Teachers: This lesson may be too graphic for preschool children. It is also hard for them to understand why a father would be willing to kill his son. This part has been omitted from the lesson so that it will not disturb them.

Do you remember learning about a little baby that was born? His name was Isaac. His parents were Abraham and Sarah. God promised them a child and He kept His promise. Abraham and Sarah were very, very old when Isaac was born.

When Isaac had grown to be a child, God asked Abraham to take his son and travel to a mountain. They saddled a donkey and gathered wood for the long trip. Clip, clop, clip, clop the donkey trotted down the road.

Finally after 3 days, they arrived at the mountain. Abraham and Isaac climbed the mountain and made a special altar to God. Abraham loved God more than anything. He wanted God to know that he REALLY loved Him.

An angel came and told Abraham that God saw how much he loved Him.

God knew that Abraham loved Him and that Abraham would follow God and obey Him. God promised that Abraham would have more grandchildren than the stars in the sky and the sand on the beach.

Let's tell God how much we love Him by praying to Him.

Sing the song to the tune of "The bear went over the mountain."

Isaac went up the mountain, Isaac went up the mountain
Isaac went up the mountain, with Ab-ra-ham.

They built a big altar, they built a big altar
They built a big altar, to show that they loved God.

God was very pleased, God was very pleased,
God was very pleased, and blessed Ab-ra-ham.

Hands-On Activities
For
Abraham is tested

Make an altar out of cheerios and frosting. Talk about how God wants to be first place in our hearts.

Create a miniature scene of Abraham and Isaac.

Blindfold a child and rearrange some of the furniture. Talk them through the 'maze.' Talk about how hard it is to trust someone when you cannot see where you are going.

Talk about what it means to love God more than anything else. Let the kids think of a modern day example of this story. For example, you may tell a story of a boy who got a new Playstation 2 or Game Cube. Would he be willing to give it to someone else? Does he love it or God more? Use other examples so that the kids can relate.
