

Abraham Offers Isaac

Genesis 22:1-18

MEMORY VERSE

HEBREWS 11:17

“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Construction paper, crayons or markers, glue, large tongue depressors, and as many small prizes (pencils, erasers, stickers, etc.) as the number of children in your class.

Paper cups, markers, and stickers.

Large clear plastic cups, small bits of string and yarn, small pieces of fabric, cotton balls (pulled apart into smaller pieces), and dryer lint.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Puppet Son

Draw the outline of a puffy man (gingerbread type figure). Let the kids color and cut out the man. Tape a tongue depressor on the back.

Ask if any of the children would like to receive a gift. Tell them that someone who loves his puppet and took great care to make it must give the puppet to you so that the whole class may have a gift. If someone who does not care about his puppet offers, then ask if it makes him a little sad to give up his puppet. If he says no, tell the class you will have to wait for someone who really likes his puppet.

Eventually you will get a taker. Pass out a gift (small prize) to each child. After the treats have been passed out, return the puppet to the child who gave it to you and explain that **faith surrenders all and waits on God.**

In our lesson today, we will see where Abraham gave to the Lord the most precious thing to him, his son. In it, we will learn how God provided a sacrifice for Abraham and see a beautiful picture of our Lord Jesus.

LESSON TIME!

Sometimes in our lives, God instructs us to do very difficult things. It is in these times that our true heart is revealed. We must make the decision to obey God's Word no matter what the cost. Today, we will be looking at a man that made such a decision, a man who surrendered all and waited for God to provide. **Faith surrenders all and waits on God.**

GENESIS 22:1

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

After waiting for so long for God's promised child, Abraham probably thought his greatest trials were over. Yet, another test of faith remained. In our difficult times, God can reveal Himself and His loving heart toward us. This test would reveal the growth and character God had built into Abraham's life. God had prepared Abraham for this time.

Has God ever tested your faith? Trials cause us to draw close to God and experience His comfort and help. Through trials, our Christian character is built, and we become more like Jesus. In fact, James tells us that we should rejoice in trials! (James 1:2,3)

GENESIS 22:2

And He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

Isaac was the beloved only child of Abraham, the child he had waited many years to receive. God had promised to make Abraham a great nation through Isaac. What would Abraham do now? Isaac was not married and did not have any of his own children. How would God's promises be fulfilled? Sometimes God may ask us to do things that we do not understand. May we, as Abraham, put our trust in the Lord. We can be sure God is working His plans for good in our lives.

God is asking Abraham to take his son Isaac and offer him on an altar as a burnt offering. In other words, he would be offered like a lamb, a ram, or a goat would be offered. Old Testament sacrifices were for the covering of people's sin. A person would confess his sins, and the guilt for those sins would be placed upon the innocent animal. The animal would be sacrificed, and the person would be forgiven his sin. God was asking Abraham to offer his son as a sacrifice.

This is a picture of what God the Father did for us when He sent His only Son to become the sacrifice once and for all for our sin. This is the first time that the word "love" is used in the Bible. This story allows us to see God's great love towards his Son Jesus, as He would watch Him die one day for the sins of the world. As you read about Abraham offering Isaac, keep in mind the beautiful picture of God sacrificing His only begotten Son Jesus for the sins of all the people in the world.

God asks Abraham here to surrender his all. What will Abraham do? How will he respond to God? Will he say, "Now you are asking too much, Lord?" What would we say if God asked us to do a very difficult thing? Would we put our entire trust in Him and obey? or would we make excuses for not obeying and walk away? **Faith surrenders all and waits on God.**

GENESIS 22:3

So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

Abraham immediately obeyed the voice of the Lord. He made a choice to trust in God and actively obeyed, even rising early to do so. Although he could not see the end, he trusted in his God. Abraham's example prompts our hearts to obey in spite of difficult and confusing circumstances. If we understand God's deep love for us, it will be easy to trust and obey Him. He will do what is best!

We may never fully see the results of our obedience as we trust in the Lord. Abraham did not see the beautiful picture God was creating of that day He would send His only Son to be a sacrifice for our sins. We may never know the effect our obedience will have on God's purposes. **Faith surrenders all and waits on God.**

GENESIS 22:4-5

Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off.

And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

Here we see the extent of Abraham's faith as he states, "We will come back to you." This revealed Abraham's confidence in God's promise that Isaac would survive. Abraham knew beyond any doubt that God would keep the promises He had made concerning Isaac. He did not know how God would work all of this out, but He knew God and that God was worthy of his trust.

Abraham ignored the physical situation, the way things appeared outwardly, because he knew God had made promises concerning Isaac and that God was able to raise Isaac from the dead if necessary (Hebrews 11:17-19). **Faith surrenders all and waits on God.**

GENESIS 22:6-8

So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.

But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." And he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." And the two of them went together.

It is believed that Isaac was a man in his early twenties. He went with Abraham, fully submitting to his authority. Isaac did not know where the offering would come from. Usually an animal would be brought with them to sacrifice. Abraham's response again shows his confidence in the Lord. He tells Isaac, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." That is exactly

what God did in sending Jesus Christ to take the penalty for our sins. Jesus is referred to as the “Lamb of God.” He was the only sacrifice sufficient to remove our sin.

Just a Cup of Water

Give the children paper cups and markers and stickers. Tell them they may decorate their cups, then you will give them a drink of water. Ask them as you pour if they really believed you would give them a drink. Explain that Abraham believed God would do what He said He would.

We also see that Isaac chose to obey and even to carry the wood for the sacrifice on his own back. This is an awesome picture of our Lord Jesus who, in full submission, carried His own cross on His back. Think about it! God loves us so much that He provided “Himself” the offering for mankind! Although we deserved to die and to be separated from God, God Himself provided the way for us to be forgiven and reconciled to Him.

GENESIS 22:9-10

Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.

And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

Here Abraham completely surrendered in obedience to God. God was first and above all in Abraham’s life. His obedience was proof of his faith and commitment to the Lord. **Faith surrenders all and waits on God.**

GENESIS 22:11-12

But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

Since, in his mind, Abraham was committed to obey and follow God's request to offer his only son, it was as though Abraham now received Isaac back (after three days) from the dead. Again, we picture our Heavenly Father receiving Jesus who rose from the dead on the third day.

Though the unbelieving nations during Abraham's time practiced human sacrifice, God did not require human sacrifice. In fact, we read later in the Bible, it is strictly forbidden. The sacrifice of Jesus for our sins would purchase our forgiveness and complete our salvation.

GENESIS 22:13-14

Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.

And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided."

God saw Abraham's need and provided for him. He sees our needs and provides for us. Through this trial, God was able to reveal more about Himself, His heart, and His provision. God gives us a picture of Jesus; the provision for us all. From this same Mount Moriah, the Son of God, Himself, would be sacrificed to provide mankind with salvation. Because of Abraham's obedience, men for centuries have been able to see and learn from this beautiful picture of Calvary.

GENESIS 22:15-18

Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven,

and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, in

"blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

The Lord confirmed His covenant with Abraham as He spoke of the blessings to come. Not only did God promise to multiply Abraham's descendants, but to give them victory over their enemies.

True worship is costly; yet as Christians, let us consider God who did not even spare His own Son for our sakes. How worthy is He to be obeyed and worshipped! God loves us and longs for us to follow His way so He can reveal to us more about Himself and bless our paths. As Abraham, may we obey the Word of God, trusting fully in God's provision. **Faith surrenders all and waits on God.**

God Will Provide

Make a “Birdie Building Supply Store.” God always provides, even for the birds.

Use a large clear plastic cup. Fill the cup with a small bits of string and yarn, small pieces of fabric, cotton balls (pulled apart into smaller pieces), and dryer lint.

Have the children take them home and put them on a tree or near the eaves of their roofs and explain that the birds will take the things in the cup to build their nests.

Explain to your class that God provides for our every need.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to surrender all to the Lord and wait on Him. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.