

LESSON 14

# Abraham Is Tested

GENESIS 22:1-19



**BIBLE TRUTH**

WHEN ABRAHAM WAS TOLD TO SACRIFICE HIS SON,  
GOD HIMSELF PROVIDED A SACRIFICE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION ..... 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY ..... 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 14)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION ..... 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS ..... 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY ..... 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Page 14

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

What Can You Remember?

God Can Do Anything!

SUPPLIES: star cut from yellow paper; medium-size kitchen knife

Descendants

7. CLOSING PRAYER ..... 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

**OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN**

In today's lesson the children will learn how God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his only son.

Ask one of the children to take off a shoe and give it to you. Make sure to ask this of someone you think is mature enough not to be upset or embarrassed by participating. Ask the children the following questions about the shoe:

- **What would you think if I said I would never give the shoe back again?**  
*(They should object, saying that would not be good.)*
  
- **How many of you think it would be a bad idea to throw this shoe away?**  
*(Ask for a show of hands and follow up by asking the children why they think it would be a bad idea.)*
  
- **How many of you think I will give the shoe back?**  
*(Again ask them why. Help the class see that those who thought you were going to give the shoe back were actually trusting your good character.)*

If I were a really mean person, what might I do with the shoe? *(You might keep it or throw it away. You certainly wouldn't give it back.)*

Finally give the shoe back and thank the child for participating. Explain that you never meant to take away the shoe—that it was only a test to see if they trust you. That is what will happen in our story today.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

**BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read story 14, "Abraham Is Tested," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION . . . . . 5 MIN**

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- How did Abraham feel about his son Isaac?

*(He loved him very much.)*

- What did God ask Abraham to do?

*(Take his only son and sacrifice him on a mountain.)*

Explain to the children that God was asking Abraham to kill his son. Normally, God would ask a man to kill an animal as a sacrifice.

- What happened when Abraham was about to kill his son?

*(An angel of the Lord called out for him to stop.)*

**SNACK QUESTIONS . . . . . 10 MIN**

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- God asked Abraham to give up something that was very special to him. What would be really hard for you to give up? What people or things do you really love?

*(They may answer with family or pets or special possessions.)*

- Have you ever had to give up something you really loved?

*(Some of the children may have had to give up pets or a home when they moved, or they may have lost a loved one.)*

- How did it make you feel?

*(Accept any answer.)*

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5-10 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

## Where Is Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the following comments connecting today’s lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God’s greater plan of redemption.

Passage: 1 John 4:9–10

In the story of Abraham being called to sacrifice Isaac, Isaac was just about to be killed when God told Abraham to stop and provided a ram as a substitute for Isaac. That means the ram took Isaac’s place. In 1 John 4 we read about another substitute, Jesus.

Instead of killing us, God sent his only Son to be our substitute and die in our place. Jesus is like the ram. John tells us that God sent his Son to be a “propitiation.” This means that Jesus died in our place, taking our punishment, and turning away God’s holy anger for our sins. Unlike the sacrifice with Isaac, no voice from heaven called out to stop the sacrifice.

### ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. . . . . 20–30 MIN

#### Coloring Activity

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ coloring page 14—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- Have the children draw in the angel of the Lord who called out to Abraham to stop.
- How did the ram get caught in the thicket?  
*(God controls all things, and he directed the ram to get caught in the thicket. So, it was God who provided the ram.)*
- How is the ram, which God provided for this sacrifice, like Jesus dying on the cross?  
*(God provided a ram to die in place of Isaac; God provided Jesus to die in our place. We are sinners who should be punished. God sent his son, Jesus, to take our punishment so we could be forgiven.)*

- Can you think of any other Bible stories where God directed the animals to do certain things?

*(In the story of Noah, the animals came two by two to the ark. Also, the ravens fed Elijah during a drought.)*

### What Can You Remember?

Ask for volunteers from the class to repeat the story of Abraham's testing. Help them along a little. After thanking them for their contribution, ask the class, "Did he or she leave anything out?" Have the class fill in any details that were omitted. You can prompt them by saying things like, "I think there is still something missing. Who else went along with Abraham and his son?" If the class really enjoys playing this game, have a second volunteer try to get the whole story correct. Be sure they include the sacrifice that God provided in Isaac's place.

### God Can Do Anything!

#### SUPPLIES:

- ✓ star cut from yellow paper
- ✓ medium-size kitchen knife

This activity is designed to help the children see that God is able to keep his promises because he is all-powerful. Ask the children the following questions:

Show the star to the children as you ask:

- Why was Isaac so important to Abraham?

(He was his son, and God promised Abraham that his offspring [children's children] would be as numerous as the stars of the sky. It was through Isaac that this promise was to be fulfilled.)

Show the knife (do not pass it around) as you ask:

- The Bible says Abraham had great faith in God. Now we know God stopped Abraham from killing Isaac with a knife. What other things might God have done to save Isaac besides call out to Abraham to stop?

*(raise Isaac from the dead; make Abraham miss his son with the knife; not let the knife cut his son.)*

- What do you think Abraham thought God would do as he was about to sacrifice and kill Isaac?

*(Abraham thought that God was going to allow him to kill Isaac and then raise him from the dead, see Hebrews 11:19.)*

**Descendants**

This exercise shows how from one child God was planning to make Abraham's offspring as numerous as the stars. Have two children volunteer to pretend to be husband and wife. Have them stand shoulder to shoulder. Ask for four additional volunteers to be their children and wives and have them stand in a line shoulder to shoulder behind the first line. Have all of the rest of the class stand in a third line behind the second as their children. (Use the helpers or teachers if needed.)

Ask the following questions while the children are still in position:

- What do we call the people in the second line?  
*(the children)*
- What do we call the people in the third line?  
*(the grandchildren)*
- What would we call their children if we made a fourth line?  
*(the great-grandchildren)*
- Why do we keep getting a bigger and bigger line?  
*(Each of the children has more than one child, so we keep getting more and more.)*

**PRAY** ..... **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 14 - ABRAHAM IS TESTED

