

LESSON 14

# Abraham Is Tested

GENESIS 22:1-19



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**BIBLE TRUTH**

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

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** ..... **5 MIN**  
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** ..... **10 MIN**  
Read Genesis 22:1–19 from the Scriptures or read story 14, “Abraham Is Tested,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** ..... **10 MIN**  
Faith  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ five quarters
  - ✓ five keys
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** ..... **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** ..... **10 MIN**  
A Shadow of the Cross  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ large hammer (a short-handled sledge hammer is best)
  - ✓ large nail (a landscaping spike six inches long or more)
  - ✓ a dagger or large knife
6. **WORD BIBLE MEMORY** ..... **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** ..... **10 MIN**  
Coloring Activity  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ coloring page 14—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** ..... **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** ..... **10 MIN**  
Caught in the Thicket  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ old children’s sweater
  - ✓ several long thorny stems from a rose or blackberry bush
  - ✓ pair of leather gloves

**TOTAL 75 MIN**

PREPARING TO TEACH

**TEACHING POINTS**

Abraham’s faith in God moved him to obedience—Abraham waited many years for a son. Finally, Isaac was born and it was a miracle. Now, God tells Abraham to kill Isaac! But as we see in Genesis 22:1, God was only testing Abraham. By now, Abraham has learned to trust God even when things seemed impossible.

As Hebrews 11:19 tells us, Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son because “he considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead.” In Genesis 22:5, Abraham told the servants that he and Isaac would both return after the sacrifice. Abraham was not only confident that God would resurrect Isaac, he believed that Isaac would be coming home with him that same day!

**Isaac’s faith in God moved him to obedience**—In this story, Isaac is a strong, healthy boy and his father Abraham is getting old. It probably would have been easy for Isaac to run away from his father. But it looks like Isaac didn’t put up a fight or struggle. He allowed his father to tie him up and place him on an altar to be sacrificed.

Imagine a son so filled with faith in God and respect for the judgment and goodness of his father that he would not fight against his own awful, painful death! What other son in the Bible did that? Jesus did. Isaac’s obedience to his father is a foreshadowing—a picture—of what Jesus would do much later as he obeyed God the Father in going to the cross.

**God moved to save Isaac**—God provided a ram as a sacrifice to take Isaac’s place. The whole time that Abraham was preparing to sacrifice Isaac, God knew that one day he would actually sacrifice his own son, Jesus. When Jesus was on his way to the cross, there would be no substitute to take his place. Only Jesus could die for our sins and take them away forever.

God understood how hard it would be to offer up your only son as a sacrifice. God must have been deeply moved by Abraham’s obedience and faith. In Genesis 22:12, God said to Abraham, “for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

## WHERE IS JESUS? \_\_\_\_\_

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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.

## THE LESSON

### OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

### BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN

Read Genesis 22:1–19 from the Scriptures or read story 14, "Abraham Is Tested," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

### OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN

Faith

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ five quarters
- ✓ five keys

This exercise is designed to help the children see that real faith is evidenced by obedience to God.

Show the quarters to the class and ask them to tell you what you are showing them. Then ask if anyone can identify the picture on the quarter. (The children should answer George Washington.) Follow up by testing them with questions such as: How do you know this is a picture of George Washington? How do you even know he was a real person? What if George Washington never existed?

Explain to the children that we learn about George Washington and know he was a real person by reading about him in history books. But, we have to believe by faith that he really existed since none of us have ever met him. Faith is believing and trusting. We have to put our trust in the history books we read. In a similar way, Abraham had to believe God. He didn't know for certain how God was going to spare his son, but Abraham believed God is good and keeps his promises, so he knew God would not allow his son to die.

Ask the class the following questions:

- **Who do you think demonstrated faith in our story today?**  
*(Abraham demonstrated faith in God in his willingness to sacrifice his son, and Isaac demonstrated faith toward God and his father when he allowed himself to become the sacrifice.)*
  
- **How do we know if a person has true faith or is just saying they believe?**  
*(A person with true faith passes the test of obedience. Abraham was willing to go so far as to kill his son. Isaac was willing to allow himself to be killed. If Abraham or Isaac would have said no to God's request, they might claim to believe, but their declarations would only be empty words.)*
  
- **How does God test our faith today?**  
*(Children and adults are still tested today. If a child truly believes that God said for them to honor their parents and it will go well with them and they will have a long life, then they will obey their parents. But if they don't believe God, they will do what they want. Obedience is always the measure of faith. We don't obey to please God or gain his favor, but if we believe in him, it will translate into obedience.)*

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**A Shadow of the Cross**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ large hammer (a short-handled sledge hammer is best)
- ✓ large nail (a landscaping spike six inches long or more)
- ✓ a dagger or large knife

Hold up the hammer and nail and ask the class to identify them. Then hold up the knife and ask the class to identify it. Finally, ask the class what the two have in common. Use this object lesson to connect the story of the sacrifice of Isaac to the crucifixion of Christ.

Then ask, “How does the sacrifice of Isaac point us to the story of Jesus and his death on the cross?” (See the “Where Is Jesus?” section of this lesson for the answer.)

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 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.

**ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 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.)*

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Caught in the Thicket**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ old children's sweater
- ✓ several long thorny stems from a rose or blackberry bush
- ✓ pair of leather gloves

Ask for a volunteer to play the role of a sheep. Put the sweater on the child and tell them they are going to play the role of the lamb caught in the thicket. Put on the gloves and pick up the thorny branches and demonstrate to the class how the thorns catch the sweater. Mention that rams' horns could also be tangled up in large branches. Ask your volunteer to try to get away while you hold the thorny stems.

Ask the class the following questions:

What happened when {your volunteer's name} tried to get away? (The thorns held him back.)

Did the ram in the story get caught by accident? (No, God, who is in control of all things, planned for the ram to be caught.)

Do you think Abraham was "lucky" to find the ram? (No, God told him the ram was there.)

Explain to the class that it was God's plan and design to provide a substitute sacrifice for Isaac, and it was God's plan to provide a substitute sacrifice for us—Jesus who died on the cross in our place.

LESSON 14 - ABRAHAM IS TESTED

