

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 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**
 The Sacrifice Test
SUPPLIES:
 ✓ pen and paper
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2** **30 MIN**
 Lights, Camera, Action!
SUPPLIES:
 ✓ video camera and TV monitor
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME** **15 MIN**
 Types and Shadows
SUPPLIES:
 ✓ soft modeling clay and a bucket full of odds and ends that you can press into the clay to make images; e.g., a comb, a bolt, a paper clip.
 ✓ overhead projector and screen or wall
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
 Make an Impression
SUPPLIES:
 ✓ small wooden or plastic cross
 ✓ clay, from “Types and Shadows” activity

TOTAL 100 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.”

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Types and Shadows

The Bible is full of prophetic symbolism. Theologians call these prophetic symbols types or shadows. The word type has its origin in the Greek word “tupos” which means the mark left by a hit or blow. If you strike soft clay with your fist it will leave an impression or mark. That mark is a type of your fist.

God, in his providence, arranged the lives of some people to give us some hints of what would happen in the future. Looking back we can see how events in the past are very much like later events.

The story of Abraham and the sacrifice of his son is full of these types. Abraham is a type of God who also gave up his only son for us. The ram is a type of Christ acting as a substitute for Isaac. Isaac is a type of Christ, willingly submitting to the sacrifice he does not deserve at the hands of a father who loves him.

A shadow is just another way of saying type. A shadow gives us the outline of its owner but no color or image. We can get some information about the object from its shadow, but it doesn't compare with seeing the original.

These types and shadows were designed to give clues about God's plan and purpose to redeem mankind. God is and always will be in control of every detail of history. He is the God who causes the ram to be caught in the thicket, and he is the one who is able to save.

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

The Sacrifice Test

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pen and paper

After reading the story of Abraham’s sacrifice of Isaac, read Matthew 19:16–26, the story of the rich young man. Ask the children to compare the actions of the rich young man with Abraham. Have them do this by writing down their answers to the following questions:

- Who was asked to give up more, the rich young man or Abraham?
- Why did the rich young man walk away sad but Abraham walk away glad?
- What can we learn from this comparison for our own lives?
- How did Abraham demonstrate his belief in the words of Jesus in Matthew 19:26, “with God all things are possible”?

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 30 MIN

Lights, Camera, Action!

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ video camera and TV monitor

Divide the class into groups of six to eight children. Give all the groups ten minutes to plan and prepare a mime (pantomimed) skit of the sacrifice of Abraham. Explain to them that a mime skit involves acting but no talking. Have team members play the roles of Abraham, Isaac, two servants, and the angel of the Lord. The rest of the team can help in the planning.

Take a video recording of each team, and if there is time, replay the skit.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- For those who played Isaac, how did you feel when Abraham was about to kill you?
- What did you learn about Abraham’s faith in God?
- What message does Abraham’s sacrifice of his son send to us about our willingness to give up everything for God?
(If Abraham was willing to give up his own son, we should be willing to give up anything that stands in the way of serving God with all our heart.)
- What did God give up for us?
(God sent his only Son to take our place on the cross and receive the just punishment for our sins.)

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 15 MIN

Types and Shadows

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ soft modeling clay and a bucket full of odds and ends that you can press into the clay to make images; e.g., a comb, a bolt, a paper clip
- ✓ overhead projector and screen or wall

Read through “A Little Bit More” concerning types and shadows. Before class, roll ten balls of clay and flatten them. Press ten different objects into the clay pancakes to form impressions. (Pick out a few hard ones that leave less-defined impressions like a glasses case; book spine; or nail, point first).

Set up the overhead projector on a table and stand a book up to block the students’ view of the overhead glass platform.

First, ask the class to guess the items that made impressions in the clay. They will be uncertain of some of the more difficult ones. To give them an additional clue, take the objects one at a time and place them behind the blind on the glass of the overhead projector so that a shadow is cast up on the wall or screen. See if that helps the children guess more accurately.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- What can we learn from an impression or type of an object?
- What can we learn from a shadow of an object?
- What can’t we learn? What is missing from what we see?

Teach them the meaning of types and shadows as used in the Bible. See if they can tell you the types and shadows of Christ found in Genesis 22:1–19.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Make an Impression

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ small wooden or plastic cross
- ✓ clay, from “Types and Shadows” activity

Do this as an extra exercise as part of the “Types and Shadows” object lesson.

Read Isaiah 53, and each time you read a verse that points forward as a “shadow” to Jesus, make an imprint of the cross into one of the lumps of clay. Then see if they can tell you how the verse you read points to Jesus.