

ABRAHAM IS TESTED

When Abraham was told to sacrifice his son, God Himself provided a sacrifice. (This strongly points to Christ.)



THE STORY: GENESIS 22:1-8

MONDAY

Abraham's faith in God moved him to obedience.

Abraham's faith in God moved him to obedience. Hebrews 11:19 gives us a glimpse of Abraham's faith and his thoughts when he was asked by God to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son because he believed that God could and would raise him from the dead. In Genesis 22:5, we read that Abraham told the servants to wait while he and Isaac went to worship and that both he and his son would return to them. Abraham was not only confident in God resurrecting Isaac; he assumed that he would be coming home with his son that same day!

TALK ABOUT IT:

What helped Abraham to have a strong faith that day? *(Abraham had learned that God is a God who keeps His promises and who can be trusted. Since we have this story recorded for us in the Bible, we too can learn to trust God for the future based on His past faithfulness.)*

PRAY:

Ask God to help you trust in the Lord that you might obey Him based on His past faithfulness.



THE STORY: GENESIS 22: 9-14

TUESDAY

Isaac's obedience toward his father moved him to submission.

Isaac's obedience toward his father moved him to submission. There is no report of struggle on Isaac's part in this story. Imagine a son so filled with faith in God and respect for the judgment of his father that he allowed his father to tie him up and placed him on an altar to be sacrificed. This picture of a submissive son is a foreshadowing of Jesus submitting to the will of the Father in giving up His own life for us on the cross.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How does this story give us a picture of Isaac's obedience to Abraham and his trust in God? *(Isaac's faith is as strong as his father's as evidenced by the fact that he did not struggle but willingly laid down his life.)*

How should Isaac's obedience help you to obey your parents? *(If Isaac can obey in such a difficult thing we should be able to obey in the simple things. Our confidence, though, cannot come from our personal strength but in our faith that obeying God is the right thing to do and that God will give us the strength to do it.)*

PRAY:

Have each of your children personally ask God to help them obey. They may even confess specific ways they have disobeyed and make their prayer a confession. This should not be done under compulsion but from a willing heart.



THE STORY: REVELATION 5:6-14

WEDNESDAY

Where is Jesus?

Abraham was called to sacrifice his only son. Because Abraham believed that God would resurrect his son from the dead, he obeyed. At the last moment God intervened, prevented the sacrifice of Isaac, and provided a ram in a thicket as the sacrifice on Isaac's behalf.

In this story, we see the foreshadowing of the future sacrifice of Christ in the following:

- Isaac, the only son, was sacrificed—Jesus, the only son, was sacrificed.
- Isaac was willingly bound for death—Jesus willingly took the cross upon himself.
- The ram caught in the thicket was a substitute provided by God—Jesus is our substitute provided by God (see Revelation 13:8).

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why is Jesus the Lamb a worthy sacrifice? *(Jesus is a worthy sacrifice because He had no sin. As a result, He could take our sin upon Himself and pay the penalty that we deserved. The sacrifice of Isaac and the ram provided by God picture this future sacrifice of Jesus.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for offering up His one and only Son, Jesus, that we might be free of our sins. Worthy is the Lamb!



THE STORY: GENESIS 22:15-19 *

* Consider reading the entire chapter again for clarity of thought. This is a wonderful story worth repeating

THURSDAY

Abraham had faith in God and God moved to save.

Abraham had faith in God and God moved to save. In Genesis 22:12 God said, “for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” No one could understand the pain and anguish associated with offering up an only son more than God. We can only imagine how deeply affected God was by Abraham’s obedience and faith. God moved to spare Isaac and provide a substitute sacrifice. which reminded God then and reminds us today of the substitutionary atonement of Christ.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How was Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice his son similar to what God did in sending Jesus? *(Jesus is God’s only son. God was willing to give up His only son just as Abraham was willing to give up His only son.)*

Why did God stop Abraham? *(God stopped Abraham because there was no need to sacrifice Isaac—Jesus would die in Isaac’s place. The ram caught in the thicket was a substitute for Isaac that pointed forward to Christ, the perfect substitute. Jesus is Isaac’s and our substitute. He died in our place so that we could have eternal life.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for sending His only son Jesus as our substitute, to take our penalty.





On the road to Emmaus.

“Let all who take refuge in you rejoice.” With these words David encourages us to take refuge in God. But how can we take refuge in a holy God? Even the priests of Israel could not regularly come near to His holy presence. The answer is that we find refuge in God through Christ alone. We can take refuge in Christ who has taken away God’s fierce and holy wrath toward us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Do all the psalms point to Christ? *(Yes, one way or another, all of the Old Testament points forward to our salvation in Christ. Some psalms point the way directly by prophesying future events in detail. Others speak more generally in the themes of God’s salvation through Christ.)*

How can we take refuge in a holy God whom we cannot see or touch? *(It is only through Christ and His atoning sacrifice that we can come to God. For those who believe in Christ, we are assured that our sinful bodies will one day be changed into glorious bodies and we shall see God in his full glory.)*

PRAY:

Ask God to help you to see Jesus in the Old Testament when you read it. Ask God to help you find your refuge in Jesus.

