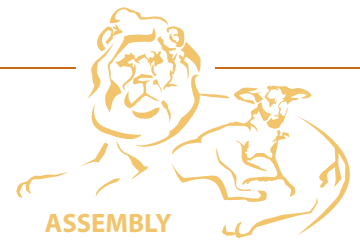


ABRAHAM IS TESTED

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 22:1-19



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

WHAT CAN YOU REMEMBER

Ask for volunteers from the class to repeat the story of Abraham's testing. Help them along a little. When they are through ask the class, "Did he or she leave anything out?" Have the class fill in any details that were omitted. You can prompt them along 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.

GOD CAN DO ANYTHING!

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:

- 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.)
- The Bible says Abraham had great faith in God. Now we know God stopped Abraham from killing Isaac. What other things might God have done? (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? (Abraham thought that God was going to allow him to kill Isaac and then raise him from the dead, see Hebrews 11:19.)

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DESCENDANTS

This exercise is to show the children 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 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.)

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.

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 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 5:6-14.)