

ABRAHAM IS TESTED

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 22:1-19



The STORY

Read the story of God testing Abraham from the NIV Bible, Genesis 22:1-19.

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

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.)
You should 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.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Abraham finds the ram in the bush, in the corner is another picture of the crucifixion. Engage the children by asking:

- 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 that provided the ram.)
- How is the ram, which God provided for this sacrifice, like Jesus? (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.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children 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.)

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.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.

