

# Abraham and Isaac

**Bible Story:** Abraham and Isaac • Genesis 22

**Memory Verse:** <sup>29</sup> If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. *Galatians 3:29, NIV*

**Main Point:** *God makes and keeps his promises.*

**Christ Connection:** *Abraham showed his love for God by being willing to sacrifice his son Isaac. God provided a ram instead. This is how God showed His love for us: He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that we could have eternal life through Him.*

## Leader Notes:

### Context

God kept His promise to give Abraham and Sarah a son, and they named him Isaac. Isaac was the child chosen by God to carry the family line—to follow God, to lead the family, and to teach the next generation to follow God too. When Abraham was well over 100 years old, God tested Abraham. God instructed him to sacrifice Isaac on a mountain. How could this be? Abraham had waited so long for this child!

But Abraham obeyed. He got up early the next day and left on his trip. Instead of waiting around to see if God would change His mind, he saddled the donkey, took the wood, two servants, and his son, and left on the journey as God commanded.

As Isaac walked with his father, he noticed something was missing. They had the wood and the fire, but "Where is the lamb?" Isaac asked. Abraham answered that God Himself would provide. Abraham had supreme faith that God was able to do anything. Before going up the mountain, Abraham told the servants, "Stay here ... we'll come back" (Gen. 22:5). Hebrews 11:19 also gives us a peek inside Abraham's mind: "He considered God to be able even to raise someone from the dead."

God did provide. He provided a ram in place of Isaac, who was spared. After what we might imagine was quite a worship service, Abraham and Isaac returned home.

In the New Testament, God brings through John the Baptist the final answer to Isaac's inquiry, "Where is the lamb?" "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). Abraham showed his love for God by being willing to sacrifice his son Isaac. This is how God showed His love for us: He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that we could have eternal life through Him. He was the sacrifice made in our place so we can live.

### Today's Passage

<sup>1</sup> The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

<sup>2</sup> "I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you."

<sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. <sup>5</sup> He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. **Genesis 12:1-5**

### Today's Takeaways

- God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his son. Abraham showed that he really loved God; he was willing to give up what was probably most important to him—his own son.
- Putting his son on the altar was probably very hard for Abraham to do
- **BL:** Abraham trusted God even when he did not understand God's plan.
- God saw that Abraham trusted Him, and the angel told Abraham not to hurt Isaac. God provided a ram to sacrifice instead.
- Abraham showed his love for God by being willing to sacrifice his son Isaac. This is how God showed His love for us: He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that we could have eternal life through Him.

### Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer the following activities to 3-, 4-, 5- year olds as they arrive.

### **Upset the Farm**

**What you Need:** animal cards with string tied for necklace (1 for each kid)

**What You Do:**

- Assign each player an animal. By giving them a necklace to wear.
- For a smaller group, just use 3 animals. For a larger group, you will want to use all 6;)
- You will arrange everyone in a big circle of chairs. But make sure there is one less chair than players.
- The one player without the chair will be "IT" and stand in the center of the circle.
- They will call out a farm animal.
- The farm animal that they call will need to jump up and find another seat, meanwhile the person that is "IT" will hurry and snatch a seat.
- The player left without a seat is now "IT."
- And the game continues. Make sure everyone gets a turn to be "IT."
- You can make it a rule that each player must move at least 2 seats away, instead of just sliding to the next seat on their left or right.
- Another option that "IT" has, is to yell, "Upset the Farm!" In this case, EVERYONE has to get up and run to a new chair...and it's hilarious watching everyone scramble!

**What You Say:**

"Was that fun? Sometimes moving around, following God's plan or being with our family is a difficult thing to do. All of those things were hard for Abraham and his family too. In our Bible story we are going to learn about how God built Abraham's family to include Jesus. Let's go see what happens."

### **Worship Time**

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

**Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)**

**What You Say:** "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible today."

### **Story Time: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways**

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

### **Bible Story**

**What You Need:** Bible

**What You Do:** Place a bookmark at Genesis 22 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it.

### **What You Say:**

“The Bible is called “the Word of God” because it contains God’s words to us. Everything that God says is true, and all the words of the Bible are true. Today’s story is from the first book of the Bible called Genesis. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### **PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO**

### **Talk about the Bible Story:**

Abraham and his wife Sarah were very old when their son, Isaac, was born like God promised. God said Isaac would be part of God’s special promise to send Jesus. One day, God wanted to see if Abraham loved God most of all. In Bible times, people gave gifts to God called *sacrifices*. God told Abraham to give Isaac as a sacrifice. Abraham trusted God, and Abraham obeyed. Abraham and Isaac went up the mountain. Abraham got ready to offer Isaac to God. A voice called to them from heaven and said, “Abraham, do not do anything to your son Isaac.” God gave a ram to be the sacrifice instead. God knew Abraham loved God most of all. One day, God would send Jesus to rescue us.

### *Ask the following review Questions:*

What was the name of Abraham and Sarah’s son? (*Isaac*)

Why was Abraham willing to give up his son when God asked him? (**Abraham trusted God.**)

What did God provide for the sacrifice instead of Isaac? (*a ram*)

What did God say Abraham’s family would have as many people as? (*stars in the sky, sand on the seashore*)

***Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.***

### **Learn the Big Picture Question**

**What You Say:** Abraham trusted God, and we can too. ***Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.*** God was faithful to provide a ram in place of Isaac. God planned to keep His promise to give Abraham a big family through Isaac.

### **Practice the Memory Verse**

Open your Bible to Galatians 3:29. Read the memory verse aloud several times.

**What You Say:** “If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” **Abraham trusted God**, and God made Him a great promise. When we believe that God gave Jesus to die for us and rise again, He promises that we can be with Him forever!

Transition to small group.

### **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and

applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

### 1. Tell about a favorite toy

**What You Need:** a small toy for each kid (they can all be different) or a picture of a toy

**What You Do:**

- Lead preschoolers to sit on the floor in a circle.
- Pass out one toy for each kid
- Invite preschoolers to come up one at a time and tell about their toy. Try to give each kid a turn.
- Ask them if this toy could be their favorite.
- Ask them if it would be hard to give up that toy forever.

**What You Say** "Giving up your favorite toy would be really hard, wouldn't it? Abraham was asked to give up something way more important than a toy! But God did not take Isaac from Abraham, just like I am not going to ask you to give up your toy. ***Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.*** "

### 2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

**What you need:** Memory Verse Poster

**What You Do:**

- Show the poster to the kids
- As you say the words point to them on the poster
- Create simple hand motions to teach kids the memory verse. Sample hand motions include "**If you belong to Christ** (clasp hands together), **then you are Abraham's seed**, (act like a seed growing from the ground) **and heirs according to the promise** (point to God)
- Our key passage tells us that when we believe Jesus is our savior, we get to be part of Abraham's family, too!

**What You Say:** Our Bible verse tells us that God promised Abraham that his family would be very large. Did you know that Jesus was born in Abraham's family? Our memory verse tells us that when we believe in who Jesus is, we get to be part of Abraham's family, too!

### Pray and Dismiss:

**What You need:** no supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Pray- " God thank you for making promises and keeping them. We thank you for Jesus and giving us a way to know you more. Help us to look at the stars and sand and remember your promises."

**What You Say:** Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Send home a toy with each kid.