

Abraham and Isaac

Bible Story: Abraham and Isaac • Genesis 22

Memory Verse: ²⁹ 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

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

² "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.

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

⁴ 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. ⁵ 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.

Worship & Story 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."

What You Do: Introduce the 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.

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Check diapers and serve snack.

Activities

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead each activity two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in the activities. That's okay.

1. Pass the gift

What You Need: A gift bag with small toys for each kid, music player or worship DVD, music

What You do:

- Sit the kids in a circle.
- Show the kids that you are going to pass the gift around the circle while the music is playing. When the music stops, the leader will give the kid holding the bag one thing from the bag. Play continues until everyone gets a toy.
- Start the music and play the game till everyone gets a toy.

What You Say: God made a promise to Abraham, and the promise was about Isaac. Abraham trusted God to keep His promise no matter what. God provided a ram to be the sacrifice. God promised to send Jesus into Abraham's family through his son Isaac to rescue us.

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 toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include 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.