



Abraham and Isaac

Bible Story: Abraham and Isaac • Genesis 22\

Bottom Line: Abraham trusted God even when he did not understand God’s plan.

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

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.

Large group: Communicating God’s truth in engaging ways.

Say This: Today we are going to learn about a time Abraham was asked to sacrifice something he loved very much—his own son.

Big picture question

“You might be thinking, *that sounds impossibly hard!* But let’s review our big picture question.

Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful and does everything for His glory and our good. That means that even when God’s plans don’t make sense to us, we can trust that things will work out the right way when we obey Him. It’s important to remember this because what we think is best is not always what God knows is best for us. God’s plans are always better than ours.

We see that truth very clearly in the life of Abraham. Last week, we learned that even though Abraham had grown old, God still planned to use him. In fact, **God made a covenant to bless the whole world through Abraham.** Abraham trusted God because he understood that God’s plans were better than his own.

Show Video

“I can’t imagine being asked to sacrifice my son. During those days, offering a sacrifice was a way to show that you love and trust God. Sometimes a sacrifice would be grain or oil, but often it meant killing an animal. When God asked Abraham to offer Isaac, it was a very difficult test to see if Abraham trusted God completely.

You see, God had already made a covenant with Abraham, and God had promised Abraham a large family. Abraham had waited so many years for a son, and giving Isaac up would have been especially difficult and scary. Even so, Abraham showed that He would obey God no matter what God commanded. Abraham trusted God even when he did not understand God’s plan.

We can get a glimpse of how much Abraham trusted God by what he said to his servants and by how he answered Isaac’s question about the lamb. Abraham asked his servants to stay with the donkey, but the Bible tells us that he said, “The boy and I will go over there to worship; then we’ll come back” (Gen. 22:5). He told Isaac, “God himself will provide the lamb” (Gen. 22:8). Abraham probably did not know what was going to happen on that mountaintop, but he knew that God would keep His promises one way or another.



God did not want Abraham to hurt his son. God stopped Abraham and provided a ram to be the sacrifice. God provided a way for Isaac to be saved. That sounds familiar though, doesn't it? Can you all think of another situation where God provided a way to be saved? [Allow responses.] Yeah! He sent Jesus!

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.

Each of us deserves punishment and death because of the sin in our lives, but God loves us even in our sin. God does not want us to die and be separated from Him. He sent Jesus to take our sins. Jesus died on the cross and rose again on the third day. This proved that He had defeated sin and death. When we believe in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us new life.”

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 40 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. Bible Story Review/Skills

What You Need: Big Picture Question Poster, Bibles

What You Do:

- Distribute Bibles and guide what book of the Bible contains the story of Abraham and Isaac. (Genesis).
- Challenge them to identify the chapter, and then instruct them to turn there. (Genesis 22)
- Choose a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 22:7-8

What You Say “The story of Abraham and Isaac might surprise you. God promised to give Abraham a big family and then he gave him a son, Isaac. So when God commanded Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, Abraham did not understand. We see that Abraham trusted God even when he did not understand God’s plan. Let’s answer our big picture question: Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful and does everything for His glory and our good.”

2. Discussion Questions:

- How did Abraham show that he had faith in God? *Guide kids to recognize that Abraham proved his faith by obeying God. True faith leads to action.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read James 2:21-22.)
- Why do you think God sometimes tests us or asks us to do hard things? *Use Abraham’s story as an example to emphasize that God may test us to prove our faith. By enduring trials, our faith is made stronger. Remind boys and girls that God never tempts anyone to sin.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read James 1:12-13.)
- God provided a ram as a substitute for Isaac. How did God provide a substitute for us? *Help kids express that God sent His Son to be our substitute. Jesus lived a perfect life and took*



the punishment we deserve for our sin so we can have forgiveness and life with God forever.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Cor. 5:21.)

3. Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, craft sticks, sharpie, tape

What You Do:

- Display the memory verse poster.
- Lead the kids to read the memory verse together.
- Write the words of the memory verse individually or as phrases on separate craft sticks.
- Prepare one stick per kid.
- Mix up the sticks and allow each kid to draw one.
- Then challenge kids to hold the sticks and arrange themselves in the correct order.
- When kids finish, guide them to say the memory verse aloud.

What You Say "Galatians 3:29 shows us one way that God kept His promise to give Abraham a family as numerous as the stars. God kept His promise through Jesus. Everyone who trusts in Jesus, showing faith like Abraham did, is part of Abraham's family."

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Prayer journals, Journal page (1 for each kid), markers/crayons, Bibles

What You Do:

- Distribute journal pages and pencils.
- Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:
 - What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
 - What does the story teach me about myself?
 - Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
 - Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
 - How does this story help me to live on mission better?
- As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas and write in your small group journal.

What You Say: Pray, thanking God for sending Jesus as our substitute so that we could live.

As adults arrive to pick up, tell kids to recite the memory verse to them.