



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 skills

What You Need: Bibles, Story Point Poster

What You Do:

- Distribute a Bible to each kid.
- Help them find Genesis 22.
- Use this time to practice Bible skills with your group, asking them to find a few different verses in Genesis 22.
- Remind the kids that the Bible is divided into 2 sections, the Old and New Testament, and each Testament has different divisions.
- Ask them which division Genesis is in. (the Law)
- Ask the following questions.

What You Say **“Abraham trusted God even when he did not understand God’s plan.** God’s plan has always been Jesus, and we believe in Him for salvation.”

2. Discussion Questions:

- What difficult thing did God tell Abraham to do? (*offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice, Gen. 22:2*)
- When Isaac asked where the lamb for sacrifice was, what did Abraham say? (*“God Himself will provide the lamb,” Gen. 22:8*)
- What happened before Abraham hurt Isaac? (*An angel stopped him, and God provided a ram for sacrifice; Gen. 22:11-14*)
- Why do you think Abraham obeyed God? *Guide kids to see that Abraham trusted God completely. He believed that God would uphold the covenant He made no matter what. God had promised that the covenant would be carried through to Isaac, so Abraham believed that Isaac would survive.*



- What makes obeying God difficult? What can we do when we are tempted to ignore or disobey God? *Guide kids to see that we don't always understand why God does the things He does. Help them see that trusting God means obeying even when it doesn't seem to make sense. Remind them that prayer and studying scripture can help us obey Him.*
- How does this story point us to Jesus? *Guide the kids to see that just as Abraham was asked to offer his only son as sacrifice, God offered Jesus, His only Son as a sacrifice for sin. Help the kids see that just as God provided a ram so that Isaac would live, God provided Jesus so that we could live despite deserving death as punishment for sin.*

3. Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, tape (masking or painters tape), string

What You Do:

- Write each word of the memory verse on a bit of masking tape.
- Then attach the bits of tape to a length of string.
- Run the string with the memory verse words attached around the room to create a tangle. Invite the kids to untangle the string and read each word aloud as they get to it.
- When they finish, they will have said the memory verse.
- Say the passage together again.

What You Say "Our memory verse is a beautiful reminder that God kept His promise to Abraham. We are now considered part of Abraham's family if we believe in Jesus. The blessings promised to Abraham are ours through Jesus."

Pray and Dismiss

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

What You Do:

- Distribute journal pages one to each kid.
- Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:
 - What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
 - What does this story teach me about myself?
 - Whom can I tell about this story?
- If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session.
- Pray for your group.

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