

Abraham Offers Isaac

Genesis 22:1-18

MEMORY VERSE

HEBREWS 11:17

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Construction paper, crayons or markers, glue, large tongue depressors, and as many small prizes (pencils, erasers, stickers, etc.) as the number of children in your class.

Paper cups, markers, and stickers.

Large clear plastic cups, small bits of string and yarn, small pieces of fabric, cotton balls (pulled apart into smaller pieces), and dryer lint.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Puppet Son

Draw the outline of a puffy man (gingerbread type figure). Let the kids color and cut out the man. Tape a tongue depressor on the back.

Ask if any of the children would like to receive a gift. Tell them that someone who loves his puppet and took great care to make it must give the puppet to you so that the whole class may have a gift. If someone who doesn't care about his puppet offers, then ask if it makes him a little sad to give up his puppet. If he says no, tell the class you'll have to wait for someone who really likes his puppet.

Eventually you will get a taker. Pass out a gift (small prize) to each child. After the treats have been passed out, return the puppet to

the child who gave it to you and explain that **faith surrenders all and waits on God**. In our lesson today we will see where Abraham gave to the Lord the most precious thing to him, his son. In it we will learn how that God provided a sacrifice for Abraham and see a beautiful picture of our Lord Jesus.

LESSON TIME!

Sometimes in our lives God instructs us to do very difficult things. It is in these times that our true heart is revealed. We must make the decision to obey God's word no matter what the cost. Today we will be looking at a man that did just that; a man who surrendered all and waited for God to provide. **Faith surrenders all and waits on God**.

GENESIS 22:1

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

After waiting for so long for God's promised child, Abraham probably thought his greatest trials were over. Yet it was at this time God chose to test or try him. Through testing, our true hearts are revealed and through these difficult times God can reveal Himself and His loving heart toward us. All testing isn't to reveal our failures but rather, as in Abraham's case, is used to reveal the character and growth God has built into our lives. God had prepared Abraham for this time.

Has God ever tested your faith? Maybe there has been a very difficult that you have gone through in your life that you brought you closer to the Lord. Trials in our lives help us to become closer to Jesus and to become more like Him. In the book of James we are told that we should rejoice in trials because they help us to be more patient and more like the Lord (James 1:2,3).

GENESIS 22:2

And He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

God here reveals His very loving heart to us as He speaks of the love of Abraham towards Isaac. Isaac was the child that Abraham had waited many years to receive. God had promised to make Abraham a great nation through Isaac. What would Abraham do now? Isaac wasn't married and didn't have any of his own children. How would God's promises be fulfilled?

Sometimes God may ask us to do things that don't really make a lot of sense to us at first. Later, after we see God's plan unfold, then it makes sense as this story does, but often when we are in the middle of these things we don't always understand everything. Abraham had to put his trust in the Lord.

God is asking Abraham to take his son Isaac and offer him on an altar as a burnt offering. In other words, he would be offered like a lamb, a ram or a goat would be offered. Sacrifices were for the covering of people's sin. An innocent animal would be killed and burned and the person who was doing the sacrificing would confess their sins and those sins would be placed on the animal and the people would then be forgiven. But now God is asking Abraham to offer his son as a sacrifice.

This is a picture of what God the Father did for us when He sent His only Son to become the sacrifice once and for all for our sin. This is the first time that the word "love" is used in the Bible. Allowing us to see God's great love towards his Son Jesus, as He would watch Him die one day for the sins of the world. As you read this story keep in mind how that this demonstrates to us, many years before it ever happened, the death of Jesus.

God asks Abraham here to surrender his all. What will Abraham do? How will he respond to God? Will he say, “Now you are asking too much, Lord”? What would we say if God asked us to do a very difficult thing? Would we put our entire trust in Him and obey? Or would we make excuses for not obeying and walk away? **Faith surrenders all and waits on God.**

GENESIS 22:3

So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

Abraham immediately obeyed the voice of the Lord. He made a choice to trust in God and actively obeyed even rising early to do so. Although he couldn't see the end, he trusted in his God and obeyed anyway. Abraham's example prompts our hearts to obey in spite of our difficult circumstances. We have to come to a place in our lives when we realize that God will always have our best at heart and we have to trust Him that He will only direct to do what is best for us.

What a privilege it is to be brought into the fellowship of His suffering! We may never see fully the awesome results of our obedience as we trust in the Lord. But God sees it and knows His purposes and plans. Abraham never could have known the fullness of what this trial would be nor can we know the awesome effects and results as we obey a faithful God. God was faithful to Abraham as we will see later in today's lesson and future lessons. **Faith surrenders all and waits on God.**

GENESIS 22:4-5

Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off.

And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

Here we see the fullness of Abraham's faith as he states "we will come back to you". This revealed Abraham's confidence in God's promise that Isaac would survive. Abraham knew beyond any doubt the promises that God had made to him concerning Isaac. He didn't know how God would work all of this out, but He knew God and that God was worthy of his trust.

Abraham knew through past experiences that God was faithful. He had seen over and over again in his life how that God was faithful. Abraham ignored the physical situation because he knew God had made promises concerning Isaac and that God was able to raise Isaac from the dead if necessary (Hebrews 11:17-19). **Faith surrenders all and waits on God.**

GENESIS 22:6-8

So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.

But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." And he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." And the two of them went together.

Abraham and Isaac went off together alone. No one would know what went on between them just as no one could know everything that went on in between God the Father and God the Son (Jesus) in

the darkness as Jesus hung on the cross. It's believed that Isaac was a man in his early twenties. He went with Abraham, fully submitting to his authority.

Isaac didn't know where the offering would come from. Usually an animal would be brought with them to sacrifice. Abraham's response again shows his confidence in the Lord. He tells Isaac that, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." And that is exactly what He did in Jesus Christ. Jesus is referred to as the "Lamb of God". He was the only sacrifice sufficient to remove our sin.

Just a Cup of Water

Give the children paper cups and markers and stickers. Tell them they may decorate their cups then you will give them a drink of water. Ask them as you pour if they really believed you would give them a drink. Explain that Abraham believed God would do what He said He would.

We also see that Isaac chose to obey and even to carry the wood for the sacrifice on his own back. This is an awesome picture of our Lord Jesus who in full submission carried His own cross on His back. How much God loves us that He would provide Himself the offering for mankind! When it is us who deserves to die and to be separated from God, it is God Himself who comes and provides a way for us to never have to be separated from Him. **Faith surrenders all and waits on God.**

GENESIS 22:9-10

Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.

And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

Here Abraham completely surrendered and gave God all. He feared the Lord over all else. Abraham loved the Lord more than anything. He was a faithful servant. Many of us could never even imagine this scene, but Abraham trusted in the Lord completely. **Faith surrenders all and waits on God.**

GENESIS 22:11-12

But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

On this third day Abraham received back his son who had been dead in his mind for the past three days, just as Jesus rose from the dead on the third day. Abraham was tried and his fear of the Lord was proved. He knew everything was in the Lord's hands and that God's way was right and best. Abraham's obedience is what was pleasing to God (1 Samuel 15:22). **Faith surrenders all and waits on God.**

What a wonderful example of faith and obedience this story is. How we need to put our entire trust in the Lord for everything. His way will always be the right way. God knew all along that He would stop Abraham. God never requires us to sacrifice our children. He has provided what we need through Jesus. Many of the unbelieving nations did sacrifice their children and later in the Bible we see that God very strongly forbade His people from doing such things.

GENESIS 22:13-14

Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.

And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided."

God saw Abraham's need and provided for him. He sees our needs and provides for us. Through this trial God was able to reveal more about Himself, His heart and His provision. God gives us a picture of Jesus; the provision for us all. From this same Mount Moriah the Son of God Himself would be sacrificed to provide mankind with salvation. Because of Abraham's obedience, men for centuries have been able to see and learn from this beautiful picture of Calvary. **Faith surrenders all and waits on God.**

GENESIS 22:15-18

Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven,

and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, in

"blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

The Lord confirmed His covenant with Abraham as He spoke of the blessings to come. Not only did God promise to multiply Abraham's descendants but to give them victory over their enemies. **Faith surrenders all and waits on God.**

All true worship is costly, yet God did not even spare His own Son for our sakes. How worthy is He to be obeyed and worshiped! Abraham obeyed fully the word of God trusting fully in God's provision. Faith surrenders all and waits on God because it knows He is faithful and His way alone is worthy to be walked.

When we obey His word, trusting in Him because of who He is, He will always provide. God loves His children and longs for us to follow His way so He can reveal to us more about Himself and bless our paths. Let us, as Abraham did, fear Him for He is worthy! **Faith surrenders all and waits on God.**

God Will Provide

Make a "Birdie Building Supply Store." God always provides, even for the birds.

Use a large clear plastic cup. Fill the cup with a small bits of string and yarn, small pieces of fabric, cotton balls (pulled apart into smaller pieces), and dryer lint.

Have the children take them home and put them on a tree or near the eaves of their roofs and explain that the birds will take the things in the cup to build their nests.

Explain to your class that God provides for our every need.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to surrender all to the Lord and wait on Him. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.