



ABRAHAM & ISAAC

GENESIS 12, 15-17, 22

GOAL

▶ **To help children understand how to live a life of faith and obedience like Abraham.**

CHARACTERS

▶ **Abraham:** His faith in God allowed him to obey God's commands.

Isaac: His faith in his father, allowed him to submit to his father's obedience to God.

Sarah: Despite her feeble faith, God allowed her to conceive a son, Isaac, even though she was too old to have babies.

MEMORY VERSE

▶ **Genesis 15:6:** And he believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness.

OVERVIEW

▶ **Read Genesis 12, 15-17, 22:** Abraham and his wife Sarah were too old to have children, but that didn't matter to God. God fulfilled His promise, and they had a boy whom they named Isaac. Later, when God told Abraham to give up Isaac as a sacrifice, Abraham obeyed. As Abraham readied himself to sacrifice his promised and beloved son, God provided a substitute sacrifice.



SUGGESTIONS

Abraham is one of the greatest examples of living life by faith and obedience. Abraham's faith was not blind; it was based on the recognition of God's authority, power, and faithfulness.

1. God called Abraham to leave his home and family and go to a land God would show him. Living hundreds of miles away from family was pretty much unheard of at this time, so to just pick up and go to an unknown location is a huge leap of faith.

2. Abraham and Sarah were childless, something that was a source of shame at the time. At 99 and 90 years of age, Abraham and Sarah were well beyond their child bearing years when God promised Abraham that he would be the father of a huge and mighty nation. To Abraham, it seemed impossible. In fact, he laughed after God promised him a son by Sarah; however, because it was a promise from God, he believed that somehow God would make it happen. Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 when Isaac was born.

3. God asked Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. Abraham waited for to be blessed with a son for many years, and Isaac was counted as one of the greatest blessings God had ever bestowed upon him. Now, God asked for Abraham to give him back to God. When the time came, Abraham rose early and took Isaac to the place where he would give his son as a sacrifice to God. Before Abraham could begin, an angel of the Lord stopped him. Abraham found a ram and offered it as a burnt offering instead of his son Isaac.

That is not to say that Abraham didn't sin or have faults. When Abraham did sin, it is an opportunity to see God's grace in continuing to bless him.

Abraham was able to do these incredible acts of faith and obedience because he trusted God with his whole life.



**PRE-LESSON
ACTIVITY**

- ▶ **Blindfold Game | Supplies:** items that can be used to build an obstacle course, such as pillows, books, or trash cans.

Make a simple obstacle course in the classroom using objects like pillows, books, or trash cans. Do not use items that could be dangerous to children. Pair students up, and blindfold one of the partners. The other student serves as a guide. See which pairs can navigate the obstacle course without touching any of the objects in the least amount of time.

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**MEMORY
VERSE
MEANING**

- ▶ **Genesis 15:6:** Abraham's absolute faith in God—His power, authority, and faithfulness—made him righteous in the eyes of God. This means that despite any sins Abraham may have or would commit, God saw his faith and considered him justified. Our faith in Jesus and belief in His finished work on the cross makes us justified and right with God.
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**POST-LESSON
ACTIVITY**

- ▶ **Trust Fall**
- Demonstrate this activity with a volunteer before allowing students to try on their own. Pair up students. One student stands in front of the other. Instruct the student standing in front to slowly lean backward until they begin to fall. The student standing behind is then to catch the other student.



TAKE
HOME



God called Abraham to do some pretty big things. How can we build our faith and trust in God to obey when God calls us to something?

1. God is good. Knowing that God is good and that He wants good things for us is huge in building faith and trust. When God calls us to do something difficult or scary, knowing that it is to bring something good into our lives will help us take those first steps.

2. God is faithful. Knowing that God is faithful will help us to be faithful to Him. When God promises us something, we can rest assured that it will happen.

3. God is powerful. Knowing that God has the power to do anything He says He will do can help us to trust and obey Him. What seems impossible to us is completely possible for the Lord. There is nothing the Lord can't do. We don't need to understand how He will make it happen, we just need to believe that He can do it. Isaiah 55:8-9 sums it up nicely:

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: What did God promise Abraham?

A1: God promised Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation.

Q1b: Name something impossible.

TN: You can make this a kind of game if you want. Every time a student names an impossible thing, ask the class if it's impossible for God to make it happen. God can make anything happen, no matter how crazy it seems. When God told Abraham that he would make him the father of so many descendants they would be like the number of stars in the sky or sand on the beach, Abraham laughed. He thought God was joking! When Sarah heard this promise, she laughed, too. But God wasn't joking. He was serious, and He made it happen.

SLIDE 2



Q2a: How old were Abraham and Sarah when Isaac was born?

A2: Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90 when Isaac was born.

Q2b: A chef has offered to cook for a huge party your family is hosting. Who would do a better job cooking: you or the chef?

TN: No matter how good we are in the kitchen, we're no match for a chef. We should leave this job to the professional. The same is true for promises God gives us. We should let God work it out in His perfect timing. God promised Abraham and Sarah a child, He said nothing about Abraham and Hagar. While that child may have been a blessing, it wasn't the blessing God had in mind. We should leave the fulfillment of blessings and promises to God—He knows what He's doing!



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: What did God ask Abraham to do?

A3: God asked Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice to the Lord.

Q3b: What is your favorite thing?

TN: This can be anything— a possession, a person, whatever. Now ask the students what they would do if God asked them to give this thing to Him and never see it again. This is what God asked Abraham to do with his son. Abraham had waited so many long years to be blessed with a son, and now God was asking him to offer this blessing as a sacrifice. God was testing Abraham's faith. Did Abraham love his son more than he loved God? Did Abraham trust that God had a plan? Did Abraham believe that God had the power to make things right?

SLIDE 4



Q4a: Where did Abraham take Isaac and his servants to make the sacrifice?

A4: Abraham took Isaac and his servants to Moriah to offer the sacrifice.

Q4b: Why would God ask Abraham to do something so awful?

TN: It is so important to understand that God has given us everything we have. To make this concept even more difficult to understand, consider that everything we have really belongs to God. The Lord is in control of all things in creation, and when He gives us things, He is asking us care for them as caretakers, often referred to in the Bible as stewards. Obeying God is more important than anything God has given to us. It can be very hard to see the distinction between ownership and stewardship, but it can make it easier to let things go when God calls us to do so. Clinging to things can tie us down or keep us from realizing God's full potential and plan for our lives. When Abraham made his choice to obey God, he did so by looking at who God is: loving, caring, faithful, and powerful. His faith and trust in the Lord was so absolute that he was willing to offer his own son as a sacrifice because he knew that God wanted him to do this and there was a purpose for it that he did not understand. While the Bible doesn't provide us with any details about the agony he must have felt before making his decision, Abraham got up that morning and made a hard choice for God and not himself.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: What did God provide as an offering in place of Isaac?

A5: God provided a ram to prepare as an offering to the Lord.

Q5b: Now that we have considered how hard it would have been for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, how do you think the Lord felt sending His Son to be sacrificed for us?

TN: Though agonizing, Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son for his love for the Lord, but God spared him from the pain of doing something so horrific. The Lord did sacrifice his Son, Jesus, for the love of every single human being ever created. While God was able to spare Isaac, Jesus had to go through every awful moment all on our behalf. We serve a God who is love—not just loving—but actually is love. The more we understand about love, the closer we come to understanding God. He would and has done everything for us because He loves us. Sometimes the things He asks us to do are hard, but when we consider the nature and character of God, we must always come to the conclusion that it is for God's good and loving purposes.



**MEMORY
VERSE**

▶ **Genesis 15:6** And he believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness.

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BIG IDEA

▶ A life lived by faith and obedience to God is based on a solid trust in the Lord.

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**CLOSING
PRAYER**

▶ Dear God, thank You for the wonderful example of a life lived by faith and obedience that we find in Abraham. Help us to have faith in You and obey You when you call. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 1



Abraham and his wife Sarah were very rich. They had lots of camels, lots of possessions, and many servants, but they were missing something very important—they had no children. One day, God gave Abraham a promise that he would have many descendants, even more than the stars in the sky or the sand on the seashore. “Impossible!” thought Abraham. “I’m too old to have kids! My wife is too old!” Abraham and Sarah were older than most great-grandparents.

SLIDE 2



Sarah did not believe the promise. Unable to wait, she decided to give her servant Hagar to Abraham so he could conceive a child with her. And so they did, and a boy, whom they named Ishmael, was born. Though Sarah made her own plans, God did not break his promise. Even though it was physically impossible for Abraham and Sarah to have any kids, God gave them a baby boy. Abraham was 100 years old and his wife Sarah was 90 when they had their precious child. They named him Isaac. As Isaac grew older, Abraham loved him even more. He taught him about God. Isaac was a daily reminder of God’s faithfulness and promise.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 3



Then God gave Abraham a test. God told Abraham, "Take your son Isaac. Sacrifice him to me." Abraham was heartbroken, but he loved God, and he knew that he must obey Him. He knew that God was good, and that God would keep His promises and provide another sacrifice.

SLIDE 4



Early the next morning, Abraham, Isaac, and two servants set out to sacrifice to God. They loaded up the donkey with wood and traveled for three days to get to the right place. It was called Moriah. They climbed the mountain, and Abraham built an altar. Isaac did not see any animals for the sacrifice. He did not understand what Abraham was about to do. Abraham assured Isaac that God would provide the offering himself. With tears in his eyes, pleading to God, Abraham tied up his son upon the altar. He was grieved beyond description. Heartbroken, Abraham lifted the knife to offer his son's life as a sacrifice.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 5



Suddenly, a voice spoke, "Abraham! Abraham!" An angel of the Lord said, "Don't harm the boy! Because you were willing to sacrifice your son in obedience to God, I know that you fear Him." Relieved, Abraham lifted his eyes and saw a ram caught in a thicket. Abraham was overjoyed. His son, Isaac, would live. God had provided a sacrifice. God would always keep His promises. Abraham took the ram and sacrificed it to the Lord. It was a beautiful lesson God showed Abraham. One day, Jesus, God's only Son, would be given in a similar way, as the sacrifice for the sin of all mankind.