



12

Abraham and Isaac

Key Themes

- God demands obedience and trust.
- God provides salvation through Jesus.

Key Passages

- Genesis 22:1–13; John 1:29; Hebrews 11:17–19

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe how Abraham demonstrated his faith and trust in God.
- Compare the sacrifice of Isaac and the ram to the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

page 5

Students will decipher a “Backward Message” relating to the lesson.



Activity 1: Cry It Out!

page 5

Students will review the memory verse using the Memory Verse Picture sheet rolled up like a scroll.



Studying God’s Word

page 6

God called Abraham to offer Isaac, the son of promise, as a sacrifice. Abraham acted in faith, obeyed God, and continued to trust His promise. In the end, God provided a ram in Isaac’s place. We see in this account a foreshadowing of Christ and the salvation God promises through Him.



Activity 2: The Lamb of God

page 9

Students will read examples of Scripture verses that name Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God—the Lamb who was slain for the sins of all who would one day believe in Him.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print one Backward Message worksheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Backward Message worksheet for each student



CRY IT OUT!

- Print one Memory Verse Picture sheet and Picture Key from the Resource DVD-ROM, for each student.

- Memory Verse Picture sheet for each student
- Memory Verse Picture key



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print the Lesson Board Work outline from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Lesson Board Work outline



THE LAMB OF GOD

- Print one Lamb of God Puzzle from the Resource DVD-ROM. Cut apart and fold the Scripture strips and put into a cup. Cut apart the puzzle picture.

- Lamb of God Scripture strips in cup
- Lamb of God puzzle pieces
- Tape
- Cup



Memory Verse

Acts 17:26–27 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.

► **Pace your lesson!** You can use the provided clocks to indicate the time each section should be completed to keep the lesson on schedule. While teaching, you can compare your anticipated times with the actual time and shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

To prepare your heart and mind for this week's lesson, read Genesis 22:1–18; Hebrews 11:17–19.

“And the Lord visited Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had spoken” (Genesis 21:1). With this, God kept His promise of a son to Abraham and Sarah and fulfilled the covenant and promise previously made to Abraham (Genesis 17:7). This was the child of promise. It was through his seed that the line of the Messiah would come.

Abraham was one hundred years old when Isaac was born (Genesis 21:5). And he celebrated the birth of this long-awaited son (Genesis 21:8). But this celebration would quickly turn somber.

Genesis 22 records one of the most moving accounts in the Old Testament. For God now determined in His wisdom to test the faith of Abraham. Did Abraham truly believe the promises of God? Where did Abraham's allegiance lie? Was Abraham willing to trust and obey the one true God?

“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” (Genesis 22:2). How heartbreaking this must have been. Yet Abraham, demonstrating his complete confidence in God, saddled his donkey, took his son, his servants, and the wood for the burnt offering, and began his journey (Genesis 22:3).

The faith and obedience shown by Abraham is seldom seen more vividly. He demonstrated it when he spoke to his servants, “the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and come back to you” (Genesis 22:5). This statement—that they would come back—revealed that Abraham believed God would keep His word and if necessary, bring his son back to life (Hebrews 11:17–19). Again he exhibited amazing faith when, as the trip neared its conclusion, Isaac wondered to his father, “where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” (Genesis 22:7). “God will provide for Himself the lamb” (Genesis 22:8). Abraham was fully prepared to obey and offer his son, but it also appears that somehow he knew the principle of substitutionary sacrifice—and that is where his hope was. Perhaps he had heard the record of Adam's sin and how God covered their nakedness and shame with the skins of the dead animals in the garden.

On the mountaintop the moment came: Isaac on the altar built by his own father . . . Abraham with hand stretched out to present to God the ultimate act

of obedience (the death of this precious son promised so long ago) (Genesis 22:9–10) . . . then the Angel of the Lord called, “do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me” (Genesis 22:12). Abraham had passed the test. His trust was absolute; his obedience complete. And God provided a ram for the sacrifice (Genesis 22:13). Here the Angel of the Lord confirmed again the Abrahamic Covenant—the land, the descendants, and the blessings that would be fulfilled through Abraham (Genesis 22:15–18).

How blessed we are to see in this historical account a clear foreshadowing of the perfect sacrifice, provided by God Himself, Jesus Christ, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8). “The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world” (John 1:29)! He alone is worthy to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing (Revelation 5:12)! He is the only one able to offer hope and forgiveness for eternity to all who will sincerely repent of their sins and turn to Him in total trust and obedience.

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

As we consider the amazing display of obedience in Abraham and the merciful intervention of our holy God, we also see God's omniscience and sovereignty as He weaves His plan of redemption in Jesus Christ throughout all of Scripture. This account of Abraham and Isaac is just one such example.

When God called Abraham to Mount Moriah, He knew exactly what would occur in this sacred place in the future. Years later, in this same region, God would appear to David and stop the plague that would beset Israel in retribution for David's disobedience against God (1 Chronicles 21:14–15). Later, near this mountain, David's son Solomon would build the house of the Lord (2 Chronicles 3:1) where the Most Holy Place would allow limited access by the High Priest—once a year—into God's presence (Leviticus 16:2). And then, in the culmination of God's eternal plan, Jesus Christ Himself would be offered near this place as the perfect sacrifice and final atonement for the sins of everyone who would believe.

The significance of this demands reverence to our all-knowing God. For on this mountain, where God provided a ram for Isaac as his sacrifice—God

also provided the only Lamb whose blood is able to ransom a people to God from every tribe and tongue and people and nation (Revelation 5:9).

On that fateful day, the day of Christ's death, the temple curtain that separated the people from their God was torn. The barrier between God and man had been removed forever. No longer would access to our holy God be limited. But believers can now enter boldly into the Holy of Holies by the blood of Jesus our High Priest. We can draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, knowing our hearts and bodies are washed with pure water (Hebrews 10:19–22).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

We know that the actual Abrahamic Covenant included Abraham leaving his family and his home and journeying to a place the Lord would show him. God also promised a great nation, a great name, and many blessings (Genesis 12:1–2). The culmination of this covenant would be the birth of Jesus Christ—a descendant of Abraham—the one through whom all nations would be blessed (Genesis 18:18).

However, this covenant was foreshadowed at the very beginning—in the Garden of Eden. Even as God was pronouncing the curse, He was also offering the hope of victory over death and sin. “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel” (Genesis 3:15). Below is a brief glimpse of the history of this amazing covenant:

Genesis 3:15 God promises a Redeemer in the Garden of Eden

Genesis 12:1–3 God presents His covenant to Abram

Genesis 12:4–5 Abram and his family begin their journey

Genesis 17:1–27 God changes Abram's name to Abraham and promises him a son

Genesis 26:3–5 God confirms the Abrahamic covenant to Abraham's son—Isaac

Genesis 28:13–15 God confirms the Abrahamic covenant to Isaac's descendant—Jacob

Genesis 45:7–8 God preserves the people of Israel and leads them to Egypt through Jacob's descendant—Joseph

Genesis 49:10 The Messiah promised through another of Jacob's descendants—Judah

1 Chronicles 2:1–15 King David descends from the tribe of Judah

2 Samuel 7:1–17 The Davidic Covenant is established—the line of David will rule forever

Luke 1:31–33 Jesus will receive the throne of David and will reign over the house of Jacob forever

Do you see God's faithfulness . . . His omniscience . . . His mercy . . . His grace . . . His sovereignty through this historical account encompassing thousands of years and woven perfectly throughout the history of the world? We serve an awesome God. For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things to whom be glory forever (Romans 11:36)!

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Dear God, how I long to one day have the faith exhibited by Abraham. Help me to trust you in every circumstance—knowing that you have always been faithful, and you always will be. And thank you, dear Lord, for the Lamb that was slain before the foundation of the world—Jesus Christ. I pray that the children will one day see the wonder of your Word and claim the hope that comes from understanding and believing that through this Lamb, they can inherit eternal life.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- Distribute the Backward Message worksheets for students to decipher.

To make it more exciting and engaging for the class, you may want to have your students compete by setting up teams—with girls against boys, blondes against brunettes, etc. Time them to see who can figure the message out first.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme posters from previous weeks, quickly review the lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you review the Lesson Theme posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Cry It Out!

MATERIALS

- Memory Verse Picture sheets for each student
- Memory Verse Picture key for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out Memory Verse Picture sheets. Ask students to roll them up like a scroll—from the top and from the bottom.

Before we get started today, let's go over our memory verse. You all should know it by now. I want you to roll your Memory Verse Picture sheets into scrolls. To do that, roll them halfway from the top and then halfway from the bottom. Open your scrolls the way a town crier would and read the verse.

Have the students unroll their scrolls, almost all the way, and read the verse together. Next, have them let their scrolls close up a little. Still holding them the way a town

crier would, have them try to say the verse again. Once more ask the students to let their scrolls roll a little more closed until they're almost all the way closed. Still holding them the way a town crier would, have the students try to say the verse again. Ask for volunteers to put their scroll down and come up front to say the verse from memory. Praise students for a job well done!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Just as God appointed a time and location for Abraham and Isaac to live, God has appointed all of us to live in our time and in our location. And just as it was God's desire for Abraham and Isaac to have faith in Him, God wants all of us to have faith, seek the Lord, and find Him. The Lord is never far from us. Great job hiding God's Word in your hearts!





Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

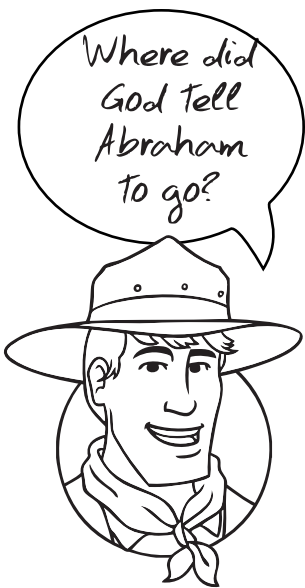
Genesis 22:1–13

Turn in your Bibles to Genesis 22:1–13. While you're finding it, I want to remind you about Abraham. He was a real man who lived a life of faith. He wasn't perfect, but his faith grew as he trusted and obeyed God. We saw Abraham act on faith first when God called him to leave his homeland of Ur and go to Canaan. He obeyed God, leaving everything behind. He believed God's promises to make his name great and to give him land. He believed God's promise that through him all people would be blessed—even though he never saw those promises fulfilled. We learned that he believed God as he waited 25 years for the son the Lord promised. And we rejoiced with Abraham and Sarah and marveled at God's blessing as Abraham became a father when he was 100 years old! Isaac was a special child, the answer to the promise. Abraham knew that the Lord would make his descendants as numerous as the stars and that the Promised One who would bless the whole world would come through Isaac. Follow along in verses 1–13. For a change, I'm going to read the verses to you.

Listen carefully to find out what God had planned for Abraham next! *Read the verses slowly and dramatically as the students follow along in their Bibles.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

This is one of the most dramatic scenes in the Bible. Although you may have heard about this event before, try to look at it with fresh eyes today. God has something special to teach each of us from the examples of Abraham and Isaac. Look in your Bibles as we answer some questions from this Scripture passage.



Observe the Text

Refer to the Bible Study poster to remind your students how to dig deeper into God's Word by asking the right questions.

- ? Genesis 22:1 tells us that God was up to something. What was God about to do to Abraham? *Test him.*
- ? What did God tell Abraham in Genesis 22:2? Where was Abraham to go? *The land of Moriah.*
- ? Who did God tell Abraham to bring with him? *His son, Isaac.*
- ? What was Abraham supposed to do with Isaac? *Offer him as a burnt offering.*
- ? Do you understand what that means, to "offer" him? *Allow answers.*

It means Abraham was to put his son on the altar, kill him, and burn him.

Why would God ask Abraham to do such a thing? The answer lies in

Genesis 22:1. *Allow answers.*

This was the test that God had planned for Abraham. God was testing Abraham's faith in Him.

? **How did Abraham respond?** *Genesis 22:3. He got up early; he saddled his donkey; he took two young men—servants; he took Isaac, his son; and he split the wood for the fire. Write on the board, "Genesis 22:3—Abraham:" and underneath it write, "got up early," "saddled his donkey," "took two servants," "took Isaac," "split the wood for the fire."*

? **When did they reach Mt. Moriah?** *Genesis 22:4. Three days later.*

? **What did Abraham tell his servants?** *Genesis 22:5. Wait here. He would be back after worshipping.*

? **Who did Abraham say was coming back?** *He and Isaac.*

That's interesting, isn't it? Abraham anticipated their safe return—both he and Isaac. Yet we'll see that he continued with the preparations to sacrifice Isaac.

? **What did Abraham take with him to the mountain?** *Genesis 22:6. Abraham gave Isaac the wood to carry; he took the fire in his hand; he took a knife; and continued with Isaac to the mountain. Write on the board, "Abraham brought:" and underneath it write, "the wood," "Isaac," "fire (a torch)," "knife."*

? **What was the fire? Do you know?** *A torch because they didn't have matches.*

? **What did Isaac ask his dad?** *Genesis 22:7. Where is the lamb for the offering?*

? **And how did Abraham reply?** *Genesis 22:8. God will provide the lamb for the burnt offering. Write on the board, "God will provide the lamb."*

Abraham was trusting that God would provide the sacrifice. Abraham had great faith, didn't he? They walked up the mountain to the place where he had probably sacrificed many times before. This time things were different. God was testing Abraham to see if he would obey even to the point of sacrificing his cherished son.

? **Look in Genesis 22:9. What did Abraham do to Isaac? We'll add this to the board.** *He built an altar; placed wood on the altar; bound Isaac; laid him on the altar; stretched his hand to kill his son! Write on the board, "What did Abraham do?" and underneath it write, "built an altar," "placed the wood on the altar," "bound Isaac his son," "laid him on the altar," "stretched his arm to kill his son."*

Wow! That was a tense moment for both Isaac and Abraham. They both knew what would come next. The sacrifice would have to be killed and then the fire started and the sacrifice would be burned. Abraham was standing over his son with the knife, ready to obey God and kill his son.

? **Look in Genesis 22:11. What happened next?** *The Angel of the Lord spoke.*

? **Yes. And in Genesis 22:12, what did the Angel of the Lord say to Abraham just as Abraham was about to kill his son?** *Do not lay a hand on the lad.*

➤ Print the Lesson Board Work outline from the Resource DVD-ROM for easier planning.

- ? Phew! God stopped Abraham just before the knife came down. Now what did God say to Abraham? Genesis 22:12. *Now I know that you fear God.*
- ? What did God mean when He said that? *Allow students to answer.*
Abraham had passed the test. When God said He knew Abraham feared Him, He meant that He knew that Abraham would obey Him no matter what. Abraham showed that God was more important to him than his son, Isaac.
- ? Then what happened? What appeared? Genesis 22:13. *A ram appeared, caught in a thicket by its horns.*
- ? What's a ram? *A ram is a male sheep.*
- ? What did Abraham do with the ram? Genesis 22:13. *He took it and offered it instead of his son Isaac.*
- ? Who provided the ram for Abraham to sacrifice in place of Isaac? Look back in Genesis 22:8. What did Abraham say and believe? *God would provide the lamb. Write on the board, "God would provide the lamb."*

Discover the Truth

Once again we see Abraham demonstrating tremendous faith in God! From the time God told him what to do until the very moment of sacrificing his son, Abraham never doubted God. Abraham willingly obeyed God and took Isaac to be sacrificed. He continued to believe that God would keep His promise.

God did something here that is really important to note. He provided a substitute for the sacrifice. Isaac was the one who was supposed to die. God showed Abraham that death wasn't His plan for Isaac. But the Lord still required a sacrifice, so He provided it. God Himself provided the lamb so that Isaac didn't have to die.

- ? God was giving us a picture of another sacrifice that would be a substitute for us, many years later. Do you know who that was? *Allow discussion.*

John 1:29

If you said Jesus, you're right. He was our sacrificial lamb. In fact, in the gospel of John Jesus is referred to as "...the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29). God came down as a person—like us. But He lived a life without sin, and then He died a terrible death on the Cross. He died so that we can live—just like the ram died so that Isaac could live. Jesus loved us that much. We all have sin, so we can't offer ourselves as a sacrifice. Only Jesus could do it. The new life we receive in Jesus Christ is eternal life. And it can be ours if we repent of our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior.





The Lamb of God

MATERIALS

- Lamb of God Scripture strips in cup
- Lamb of God puzzle pieces
- Tape
- Cup

INSTRUCTIONS

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God. I have some Scripture strips in this cup. I want one of you to come up and read one of them. After you read it, someone else take one of these puzzle pieces and tape it to the board. As we read about Jesus the Lamb of God, we'll put the puzzle together.

Have a volunteer pull a verse from the cup and read the verse out loud. Have another volunteer tape a piece of the Lamb of God puzzle on the board. Repeat this process until the entire puzzle has been taped together. As the students put the puzzle pieces on the board, repeat the point that Jesus is the Lamb of God. Verses are John 1:29, 1 Corinthians 5:7, Acts 8:32, 1 Peter 1:19, Revelation 5:12, Revelation 5:13.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

? How was Jesus described in each of these verses? *As the Lamb of God. Refer to the assembled puzzle.*

When Abraham was asked by God to sacrifice his son Isaac, Abraham was obedient. He willingly prepared and took his son up the mountain, trusting God completely. The Angel of the Lord stopped Abraham, and God provided a substitute sacrifice—a ram. The ram died in Isaac's place.

The account of Abraham and Isaac points to a picture of what God would one day do for us. When the Lord sent Jesus Christ to take the punishment for our sins, He was our substitute. We deserve death and eternal separation from God, but when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus, God accepts the blood that Jesus shed as our substitute sacrifice.

? So when someone asks you who the Lamb of God is, what should you say? *Jesus Christ is the Lamb who was slain for our sins.*



READ THE WORD

? Now I want you to turn to the book of Hebrews. Who knows where Hebrews is? *New Testament. Refer to the Books of the Bible poster. Have someone find Hebrews on the poster and then allow students to find it in their Bibles.*

Let's read Hebrews 11:17–19 to get a better understanding of the relationship between Abraham and God. *Choose a volunteer to read the verses.*

Hebrews 11:17–19

EXAMINE THE WORD

Let's ask some questions of the text, and learn more from the Lord's words to us.

Observe the Text

- ? How was Abraham able to offer Isaac on Mt. Moriah? *Hebrews 11:17. By faith.*
- ? And what had God promised about this son, Isaac? *Hebrews 11:18. In Isaac your seed will be called.*
- ? What does that mean? *Allow for answers.*

It means that the promise God made to Abraham so long ago, that he would be the leader of a great nation could only be fulfilled in Isaac. And yet God had called Abraham to kill his son.

- ? So what was Abraham thinking as he raised his arm to kill this special son? Someone read Hebrews 11:19 again. *Assign a reader.*
- ? What was Abraham concluding as he went to kill his only son? *That God was able to raise him up again even from the dead if necessary.*

Abraham believed that God could raise Isaac from the dead. He trusted God with the very life of his cherished son. And he believed God would still fulfill all His promises, even if He would have to raise Isaac from the dead to do it. That is utter and complete faith!

Discover the Truth

God had promised Abraham that he would have so many descendants they could not be counted. Because of that promise Abraham had complete faith and trust in his Almighty God. He remained faithful to God even to the point of offering his only son, Isaac in obedience to God's command. The passage in Hebrews makes it clear that Abraham's trust in God led him to believe that God could and would raise Isaac from the dead if necessary to fulfill His promise.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Abraham showed us just how much faith he had in God. He was ready to obey when God called him. He was even willing to sacrifice his son Isaac, whose descendant would be the Savior. Abraham never doubted God's promise but trusted Him even more! And God did save Isaac just in time. God provided the sacrifice—a ram—to take Isaac's place.


? Can you see how this is a picture of what God did for us when He sent Jesus Christ to save us from eternal death in hell? *Yes.*

Remember that the Bible tells us Jesus Christ is the substitute Lamb that was slain in our place. He is the only one able to offer hope and forgiveness for eternity to all who will sincerely repent of their sins and turn to Him in total trust and obedience.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

The Bible is truly an amazing book—and it can be believed and trusted. The account of Abraham and Isaac is just one example of how God directs His people to fulfill His purposes. The purpose of God in the Bible was and still is to bring His people into a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

God continues to reveal His faithfulness, omniscience, mercy, grace, and sovereignty through the entire Bible. It covers thousands of years and God has woven it perfectly throughout the history of the world. We serve an awesome God. He is to be feared, honored, trusted, and believed! *Refer to the Attributes of God poster and the Seven C's Timeline.*

You may hear that the Old Testament is not important because it is so old. I hope you realize that isn't true. The Old Testament is full of real historical people who knew God, and it provides many examples to us of how to live a life of faith. More importantly, it also tells us about Jesus our Savior from the very beginning— Genesis—to the very end—Revelation!

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

Acts 17:26–27 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Thank God for His Word and the example of the faith and obedience of Abraham.
- Thank God that He sent the Lamb of God—Jesus—to take away the sins of the world.

