



# 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

### 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 unscramble the words from the memory verse on the Acts 17:26–27 Word Scramble activity sheet and then color the picture on the sheet.



### Studying God's Word

page 5

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 1: What Is Abraham Doing?

page 8

Students will put the What Is Abraham Doing? cards in order according to what they heard about Abraham and Isaac. If time permits, the children can act out what is on each card.



### Activity 2: The Lamb of God

page 9

Children will see that Scripture confirms that Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God—the Lamb who was killed for the sins of all who would one day believe in Him.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO



### COME ON IN

- ☐ Print one Word Scramble activity sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.



### STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- ☐ Study the Prepare to Share section.
- ☐ Go Before the Throne.



### WHAT IS ABRAHAM DOING?

- ☐ Print and cut out one set of the What Is Abraham Doing? cards from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.



### THE LAMB OF GOD

- ☐ Print one Lamb of God Scripture sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM.

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ Word Scramble activity sheet for each student
- ☐ Pencils and crayons

- ☐ Student Take Home Sheets

- ☐ What Is Abraham Doing? card set for each student

- ☐ Lamb of God Scripture sheet
- ☐ Stuffed lamb or comparable item



## 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)!



## 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 . . .

- They will unscramble words from the memory verse on the Word Scramble activity sheet.
- They will then color the picture on the sheet.



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



## REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme posters from previous weeks, quickly review the previous 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.



## Studying God's Word

### READ THE WORD

Before we get started, I want to remind you of a couple of things we have already talked about.

? Do you remember Abraham and Sarah? What had God promised Abraham? *Refer to the Lesson Theme posters from Lessons 9 and 10. Allow children to answer.*

God had promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations—that he would have a son. Abraham waited a long time for that son—he was 100 years old when Isaac was born. Isaac was the child of God's promise, and it was through Isaac that Jesus, the Savior, would be born one day. Abraham must have been so happy when he found out that Sarah would finally have a son. But God had more in store for Abraham. He was about to test Abraham's faith in a big way.

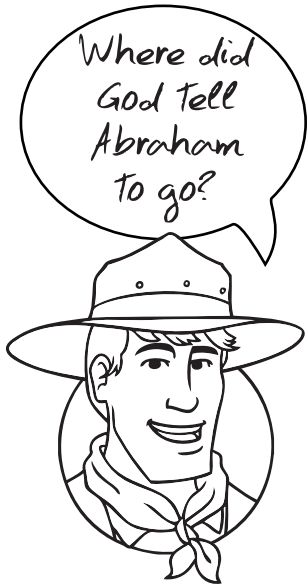
Turn in your Bibles to Genesis 22. I am going to read verses 1–13. Listen very carefully—this is very exciting. We'll see what God did next! *Read the verses as the children follow along in their Bibles.*

### EXAMINE THE WORD

Do you understand what happened? God told Abraham to take his son and offer him as a sacrifice to God. God commanded Abraham to kill his precious son, Isaac. This was the special son God had promised to Abraham

**Genesis 22:1–13**

➤ As you ask these questions, have the children look in their Bibles or re-read the verses so they can answer the questions.



and Sarah, the son they had waited for year after year. But now God told Abraham to go, take his son and offer him as a sacrifice to God. 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.

- ? Where did God tell Abraham to go? Look in verse 2. *The land of Moriah.*
- ? What did God want Abraham to do there? Also in verse 2. *Offer Isaac as a burnt offering.*

This was a very big test for Abraham. God was telling him to take his son Isaac and kill him as an offering to God.

- ? Did Abraham obey? Look in verse 3 and tell me what it says. What did Abraham do? *Abraham obeyed God.*

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.

- ? Now look in verse 7. What did Isaac ask Abraham, his father? *Where is the lamb for a burnt offering?*

Isaac was a smart young man. He saw that they had everything they needed to make a sacrifice to God—except the animal.

- ? Where was the sacrifice? Did Abraham have it? *If the children don't know the answer, have them look again at verse 2. God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, his son.*
- ? In verse 8, what did Abraham tell Isaac? *God would provide the lamb for a burnt offering.*

Abraham was trusting God. He trusted that God would provide the sacrifice. But Abraham was going to obey God—and he was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac because that is what God told him to do.

- ? Look in verse 9. What did Abraham do to Isaac? *He bound Isaac and laid him on the altar, on the wood.*

Wow! I wonder what Isaac was thinking when his dad tied him up with rope and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Isaac knew what would come next. The sacrifice would have to be killed and then the fire started to burn the sacrifice.

- ? And who did God want as the sacrifice? *Isaac.*
- ? What does verse 10 say—what was in Abraham's hand? *A knife.*

Yes. Abraham had a knife in his hand and was ready to kill his precious son—the son that was specially promised by God Himself. I don't think this made much sense to Abraham.



- ? But in verse 11 who began to speak to Abraham? *The Angel of the Lord.*
- ? Yes. And look in verse 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.*
- ? What else did God say there in verse 12? *Now I know that you fear God.*
- ? What did God mean when He said that? *Allow children to answer.*

When God said He knew Abraham feared Him, he meant that He knew that Abraham would obey God. God was more important to Abraham than his own son. And Abraham had faith in God even though he did not know what God's plan was.

- ? What did Abraham see in the bushes, or the thicket, just then? Look in verse 13. *A ram.*

A ram is a male sheep. It has curly horns—like the animal on the Word Scramble you worked on.

- ? What did Abraham do with the ram? Look in verse 13. *He took it and offered it instead of his son Isaac.*
- ? Who provided the ram for Abraham? Look back in verse 8. What did Abraham say? *God will provide the lamb.*

## Discover the Truth

What faith Abraham had in God! First, Abraham had to wait so long even to have his son. Remember, he was 100 years old and Sarah was about 90 years old. And how pleased Abraham and Sarah were. This was the son that God had promised so long ago. This son would have many sons—and finally one of his descendants, one of his relatives, would be Jesus.

What could God be doing? He ordered Abraham to kill Isaac. It seems hard to believe that Abraham would still be the father of many nations if he had to kill Isaac. But Abraham obeyed and did exactly as God said. God was really testing Abraham's faith. And Abraham passed the test.

Through all of this account, Abraham never doubted God. Abraham willingly obeyed God and took Isaac to be sacrificed. He knew that somehow God would keep His promise. Abraham never stopped trusting and obeying God.

In the end, he didn't have to kill Isaac. God stopped him just in time and provided a ram for the sacrifice instead.





# What Is Abraham Doing?

## MATERIALS

- What Is Abraham Doing? card set for each student

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Pass out one set of the What Is Abraham Doing? cards to each student. Ask the students to put them into order according to what they heard about Abraham and Isaac. You can divide the students into teams if that is easier. If time permits, have the children act out what is happening on each card and let the other children guess which event they are acting out, or you can have them color the cards.*

God asked Abraham to do something very difficult, and Abraham obeyed. He left his house, traveled with Isaac, put Isaac on the altar, and was ready to sacrifice him to God when suddenly an

Angel of the Lord stopped him. And God provided a ram for the offering.

Put these cards in order according to what happened in this account of Abraham and Isaac.

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Abraham trusted God. God had promised Abraham that Isaac would be a special son and that one of his descendants would be the Messiah. And even though God was telling Abraham to sacrifice his very special son, Abraham believed that God would somehow keep His promise.



## READ THE WORD

- ? Now I want you to turn to the Gospel of John. Who knows where John is? Is it in the New Testament or the Old Testament? *In the New Testament. Refer to the Books of the Bible poster. Have someone find John on the poster and then allow time for the children to find it in their Bibles.*

I am going to read John 1:29. This was when John the Baptist was preaching to the people. He was telling them that someone special was coming.

- ? Who do you think that may have been—the special person John the Baptist was telling the people about? *Allow for answers.*

It was Jesus, the promised Messiah.

- ? And we talked about some of Jesus's relatives or ancestors earlier today. Who were they? *Abraham and his son Isaac.*

Now listen carefully to what John calls Jesus when he sees Him coming to him. *Read John 1:29.*

John 1:29

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? Who was coming toward John the Baptist? *Jesus.*



- ? What did John call Jesus? *The Lamb of God.*
- ? That's right. And what was the Lamb of God going to do? *Take away the sins of the world.*

## Discover the Truth

- ? Now who remembers what happened to Abraham just as he was going to kill his own son with the knife? *The Angel of the Lord stopped him.*
- ? And what did God provide for Abraham to sacrifice instead? Look at your coloring sheet or the cards we just used for a hint! *A ram.*

That's right. God provided a ram for Abraham. A ram is a male sheep. Abraham went up the mountain to sacrifice his precious son. But God stopped him and provided another sacrifice—a substitute—the ram.

- ? And here in John we see Jesus. And what did John call Jesus? Look in John 1:29. *The Lamb of God.*

Do you see a connection here? God sent the ram to save Isaac's life. The ram was sacrificed in Isaac's place.

And God sent Jesus, the Lamb of God, so that all who believe in Him and run to Him for the forgiveness of their sins will be saved—saved from eternal death in hell.



## The Lamb of God

### MATERIALS

- ☐ Lamb of God Scripture sheet
- ☐ Stuffed lamb or comparable item

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Gather the children into a circle. Give one child a stuffed lamb or other comparable item. Instruct the children to toss the stuffed lamb across the circle to a classmate when they hear the word "lamb."*

*Read the verses again. After you read each verse, ask the question, "Who is the Lamb of God?" and have the children toss the lamb again and answer, "Jesus!"*

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The Bible tells us that God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. Abraham was

obedient and willing to sacrifice his son. At the same time he trusted that God would be faithful to His promise. The Angel of the Lord stopped Abraham, and God provided a ram in place of Isaac.

The account of Abraham and Isaac is a picture of what God would one day do for us when He sent Jesus Christ to take our punishment for sins. God provided the ram to be the sacrifice in place of Isaac. And God provided Jesus Christ to be the sacrifice for us if we will obey, trust, repent, and turn from our sins. The Bible tells us over and over that Jesus Christ is the Lamb who was killed for our sins.





# 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, the one who would one day lead to the Savior. Abraham never doubted God's promise but trusted Him even more! And God did save Isaac in the end. God provided the sacrifice—a ram—to take Isaac's place.

This gives us a picture of what God did for us when He sent Jesus Christ to save us from eternal death in hell. Jesus Christ is the Lamb that was slain for all who obey Him, trust Him, and repent of their sins.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

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

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 many times when God shows us something in the Old Testament that points to Jesus, the Savior and friend of sinners.

You might hear that the things in the Old Testament happened so long ago that they don't matter today—that they don't have anything to do with Jesus. Well, this just isn't true. The Bible is all about Jesus, our Savior, from beginning to end.



### 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 the faith and obedience shown by Abraham.
- Thank God that He sent the Lamb of God—Jesus—to take away the sins of the world.