



12

Abraham and Isaac

Key Themes

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

Key Passages

- Genesis 22:1–3, 22:7, 22:13; John 1:29

Lesson Focus

- Abraham had faith and trust in God.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will play with play dough making a ram, sheep, altar, sticks, knife, Cross, bush—things that relate to today's lesson.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the prayer page of the Flip Chart, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

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

Song—Children will sing a version of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." Then lead them in the song "God Can't Lie" as they go around in a circle. Finish song time by reviewing the "Acts 17:26 Memory Verse" song.



Activity 1: Act It Out! The Sacrifice

Students will act out the Bible lesson—with your help—as you read the script.



Activity 2: The Ram and the Lamb

Students will finish The Ram and the Lamb activity sheet by gluing cotton balls to the ram and lamb and coloring the Cross.



Memory Verse Review/Snack

Children will review the memory verse while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

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

- Student Take Home Sheets



COME ON IN

- Bring enough play dough for each student to have some.

- Play dough



CIRCLE TIME

- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Stuffed animal



ACT IT OUT! THE SACRIFICE

- Print one Act It Out! The Sacrifice script from the Resource DVD-ROM for each person who will be helping you with this activity.
- Gather the props listed to the right before class.

- Act It Out! The Sacrifice scripts
- Wood sticks for fire
- Rope or headband for tying
- Piano bench or chairs for altar
- Stuffed ram
- Various costumes—white sheets, walking stick, sandals, etc.



THE RAM AND THE LAMB

- Print one The Ram and the Lamb activity sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Bring cotton balls to glue onto the ram of each picture.
- Complete one The Lamb and the Ram activity sheet to show children.

- The Ram and the Lamb activity sheet for each student
- Cotton balls
- Glue
- Crayons
- Completed The Lamb and the Ram activity sheet



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for memory verse review
- Snacks



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 children arrive . . .

- They will use play dough to make items related to the Bible lesson today. A ram, sheep, altar, sticks, knife, Cross, firewood, bush, etc. Explain as you give children the list of items to make that these things will be a part of the Bible lesson.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, 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 display the lesson pages from the Flip Chart. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, Act It Out! The Sacrifice script, completed The Lamb and the Ram activity sheet, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible Study with prayer. Let's pray. *Turn to the prayer page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Confession is suggested. You might proceed this way.

Today let's say a prayer of confession—and tell God that we are sorry for something we did that did not please Him.

I'll start. Dear God, I know that you see all things. You know everything I do. I can't hide anything from you. God, I am so sorry for . . . *(enter personal prayer here).*

➤ Prior to making your transition to circle time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the circle time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their own confidence in praying to God.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of confession.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first four questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

? Before we begin, what is this? *Hold up your Bible. The Bible!*

? What is in this Bible? *God's holy Word!*

? What does the Bible tell us? *Everything we need to know!*

? And all God's Words in this Bible are what? *True!*

➤ As you teach, refer often to the Flip Chart picture to keep the children engaged.

We have been talking about Abraham and Sarah, his wife. Remember that God told Abraham to leave his home, to travel to a land he had never been to, the land of Canaan. God promised Abraham that he would have a very, very large family and that someone special would come from his family and bless all nations. That person would bless lots of people.

? Who was that special person? *Show the Lesson 10 Flip Chart page. Jesus!*

That's right. Jesus was going to be a part of Abraham's family and bless many people. And Abraham had faith and trust that God would keep His promise.

? Have any of you ever had to wait for anything? *Allow discussion on waiting.*

Sometimes it is hard to wait. We wait for our birthday, we wait for Christmas, we wait for vacation. Waiting is not easy when we are waiting for a wonderful thing to happen. *Allow more discussion on waiting.*

Well, God made Abraham wait a very long time for the son He promised him. Abraham had faith and trust in God. And finally he did have a son of his very own, just as God had promised. He named him Isaac. Abraham and Sarah were very old when Isaac was born. They were also very happy when Isaac was born.

Genesis 22:1-2

But God had more to ask of Abraham. Listen carefully while I read this to you. This is what God asked Abraham to do with his only son, Isaac. *Read Genesis 22:1-2. Read very enthusiastically emphasizing offer him as a burn offering.*

? What did God say to Abraham? *Allow discussion.*

God wanted Abraham to take his son and offer him on the mountain to God! God wanted Abraham to kill his son. God was testing Abraham.

What did Abraham do? Listen to God's true Word and you can tell me when I'm finished reading. *Read Genesis 22:3. Allow discussion.*

Genesis 22:3

Abraham obeyed God and took his son Isaac to the mountain to be offered on the altar as a sacrifice to God. Normally the people in Abraham's time offered animals on the altar to God. This was different.

- ? Isaac noticed something was wrong and asked his father a question. What did Isaac notice was missing? Listen to God's Word and tell me what Isaac asked his dad. *Read Genesis 22:7. Where is the lamb for the sacrifice?*

Genesis 22:7

Isaac noticed that there was no lamb. And Abraham answered him and told Isaac that God would provide the lamb for a burnt offering. Abraham had faith in God. He didn't know what was going to happen, but he knew he could trust God. He knew he must obey God. And he knew that God would be faithful to His promises.

Abraham prepared the altar for the sacrifice. He put the firewood on it, he tied Isaac up, his only son! He laid Isaac on the altar and suddenly he heard a voice—it was the Lord. The voice said, "Do not lay a hand on your son or do anything to him. Now I know that you love me since you were willing to offer up your only son to me."

Wow! I can imagine Abraham was so relieved! But he needed a sacrifice to put on the altar. Listen carefully and see what happened next! *Read Genesis 22:13.*

Genesis 22:13

- ? What did Abraham find in the thicket or bushes? *Reread the verse again if necessary. A ram.*

A ram is a male sheep. Remember, Abraham knew that God would provide the animal for the sacrifice and God did. The ram appeared in the bushes at just the right time. Abraham took the ram and sacrificed that to God instead of his son Isaac. God provided the sacrifice. He provided a sheep for Abraham. Abraham trusted God and God saved Isaac's life.

Now I want you to listen to something I'm going to read from the book of John in the Bible. This is a long time after Genesis. *Show the children Genesis and then turn to John 1:29. Read John 1:29 emphasizing Jesus, the Lamb of God.*

John 1:29

- ? Who was coming toward John in this verse? *Jesus.*
? What did John call Him? *The Lamb of God.*

That's right. And then the Bible tells us that Jesus, the Lamb of God, was going to take away the sins of the world! There is a connection here in the Bible between the book of John, talking about Jesus, and the book of Genesis, talking about how God provided the sheep for Abraham to sacrifice instead of his son Isaac. *Hold up your Bible. Point out Genesis and John.*

God provided a substitute—a ram or sheep—for Abraham so he wouldn't have to kill his only son. And God provided a substitute, the Lamb of God,

to take away the sins of the world. God sent Jesus so that whoever would believe and trust in Him would be saved.

SONG

➤ Musical instruments, marching, and motions can be added to this section to add interest and help learning.

OK. God told Abraham that he would have a very large family, so many that no one could count them all, just like the stars. Let's sing the Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star song about Abraham and the stars—they can't be counted! And remember, Jesus was a part of Abraham's family. Jesus was the special one that God promised to Abraham. And He was the Lamb of God who died to save sinners from God's punishment. *Sing the song several times with various movements. Turn to the Flip Chart song page if appropriate.*

? What book do we read from every week in our class? *The Bible!*

? And everything in this Bible is what? *True!*

That's right. Let's sing the song, God Can't Lie. That's how we know that everything in this book is true. God can't lie and this is God's book! *Sing God Can't Lie several times. Lyrics to the songs can be found on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.*

We'll finish off song time by singing our memory verse song. *Turn to the Acts 17:26 Memory Verse page in the Flip Chart. Point to the words/pictures as you sing.*



Act It Out! The Sacrifice

We are going to act out what happened in our Bible lesson. You will do the things as I read them. I'll need your help and special attention!

MATERIALS

- Act It Out! The Sacrifice scripts
- Sticks, wood, "torch for fire"
- Rope or headband for tying Isaac up
- Stuffed animal for a ram, or costume for child to dress as ram
- Various costumes—white sheets, walking stick, sandals, etc.
- Bench or something to use for an altar

INSTRUCTIONS

Assign the children parts in the "play." Dress several or all of them up in "costumes." Pass out the props. The parts are

Abraham, Isaac, servants, the Angel of the Lord, and the ram. As you read the skit, the children will act. Repeat the skit so all the children will have a chance to participate.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Abraham was willing to follow God's command. He had waited almost 100 years for this son. Abraham trusted God and loved Him with his whole heart and obeyed Him. Just as Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac, God sacrificed His Son Jesus on the Cross. Just as God provided a ram to take Isaac's place, God provided the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, to die in our place.

Make a transition back to the tables to do The Ram and the Lamb activity.



The Ram and the Lamb

We know that God provided a ram to save Abraham, and the Bible calls Jesus the Lamb of God. God provided Jesus, the lamb to save sinners and offer forgiveness. We are going to finish this paper. The ram will remind us of Abraham, and the Cross will remind us of Jesus, the Lamb of God. *Show a completed sheet.*

MATERIALS

- The Ram and the Lamb activity sheet for each student
- Cotton balls
- Glue
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

The children will finish The Ram and the Lamb activity sheets using the items listed above. Glue the cotton balls onto the ram's and the lamb's body and color the Cross.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

We know that God provided a ram to save Isaac. God provided Jesus, the Lamb of God, to save sinners by dying on the Cross and offering forgiveness.



Memory Verse Review/Snack

Acts 17:26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth.

After thanking God for your snack, review the memory verse with the children while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Use the Memory Verse page in the Flip Chart. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try and say it on their own.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Abraham had faith and trust 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, Jesus. Abraham never doubted God's promise. He trusted God in everything. God did save Isaac in the end. God provided the sacrifice—a ram—to take Isaac's place.

In the same way, God offers to save us through Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. Jesus died on the Cross to save sinners.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

The Bible is an amazing book. It is all about Jesus Christ. Even when we study Genesis, at the very beginning, we see how God is letting us know about Jesus. The Bible is a book that shows us Jesus as the Savior and Lamb of God from beginning to end. The Bible can be trusted. It is God's Word!

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



Group Prayer Time

- Pray that one day we will be able to have faith and trust in God like Abraham did.
- Thank God for the ram that saved Isaac and for the Lamb of God, Jesus, who can save us from our sins if we believe and trust in Him.
- Pray that one day we will all know Jesus, believe Him, trust Him, love His Word, and know we are forgiven by Him, giving us eternal life.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring page, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

ACTS 17:26 MEMORY VERSE

(To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

And He has made,

(Are you sleeping?)

From one bloo-ood,

(Are you sleeping?)

Every nation, every nation.

(Brother John. Brother John.)

To dwell on all the ear-earth.

(Morning Bells are ringing!)

To dwell on all the ear-earth.

(Morning Bells are ringing!)

Acts Seventeen: Twenty six.

(Ding, ding, dong. Ding, ding, dong.)

TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR

Twinkle, twinkle little star.

We can't count how many there are!

And the Bible says it's true,

Abraham's family is like you.

God said, "Look into the sky.

Can you count the stars up high?

So shall your descendants be;

Too many to count you'll one day see."

Twinkle, twinkle little star.

We can't count how many there are!

GOD CAN'T LIE

(To the tune of "Do you Know the Muffin Man?")

Form a circle. Hold hands and go around as you sing.

Do you know that God can't lie?

(Do you know the muffin man?)

God can't lie. God can't lie.

(The muffin man, the muffin man.)

Do you know that God can't lie?

(Do you know the muffin man?)

God's Word is always true!

(Who lives on Drury Lane?)

Stop. Start singing and switch directions in the circle.

Do you know that God can't lie?

God can't lie. God can't lie.

Do you know that God can't lie?

His Word will light the way!

