

Abraham's Big Test

Abraham and Isaac

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-7; 22:1-19

Character Trait: Faithful

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will identify and discuss how Abraham was faithful to God.
- Children will recall different ways God has been faithful to them personally.
- Children will discuss specific ways they can be faithful to God.

Supplies:

- *Abraham's Big Test* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- White paper
- Gray or brown construction paper
- Glue

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Thank all of them for the sacrifice of their time to be present for the lesson.

SAY: Do you know what a sacrifice is? *(Invite a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

SAY: A sacrifice is giving something important or valuable up for something that is even more important. You could be doing something else right now, but instead, you sacrificed your time to come learn and participate in today's lesson.

SAY: Today, we will learn about someone else who was also willing to sacrifice someone very important to him: Abraham was willing to sacrifice his own son to God!

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **What did God tell Abraham to do?** *(God told him to leave his home in Haran and travel to another land.)*
- **What did God promise Abraham?** *(God promised to give Abraham more descendants than there are stars in the sky. He also promised to give the new land to Abraham and his children.)*
- **How did Abraham respond to God's instructions?** *(Abraham obeyed. He left Haran and traveled to the new land of Canaan.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Abraham's Big Test* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- God promised Abraham a son and, from that son, many descendants who would bless the whole world.
- But Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were too old to have children.
- Twenty years went by. Still, Abraham trusted God's promise.
- When Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90, God reminded them of His promise.
- Sarah was going to have a baby!
- When their son was born, Sarah was so joyful that she laughed.
- "God has brought me laughter!" she said.
- So they named their son Isaac, which means "he laughs."
- When Isaac was a boy, God tested Abraham by telling him to take Isaac to Mount Moriah and kill him as a sacrifice to God.
- Abraham was confused, but still he trusted God.
- Isaac carried the wood, and Abraham held the knife and torch.
- Together they climbed the mountain.
- "Where is the lamb for the sacrifice?" asked Isaac.
- "God will provide it," Abraham replied.
- Abraham arranged the wood on an altar, tied up Isaac, and laid him on the wood.
- As he raised the knife to kill Isaac, an angel called his name: "Abraham!"
- "Don't hurt the boy!" the angel cried. "God knows you trust His promise. Look, there in the bushes! A ram is caught by its horns! Sacrifice that instead."
- So Abraham sacrificed the ram instead of his son.
- He called the place "God Will Provide," because God provided the sacrifice.
- Just as God has said, His promise came true.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following questions:

- **Why might it have been difficult for Abraham to trust God's promise of many descendants?** *(Many years went by, and Abraham and Sarah were very old.)*
- **Was God faithful to keep His promise to Abraham?** *(Yes, God was faithful. He kept His promise by giving Abraham and Sarah a son.)*
- **Why did Abraham and Sarah name their son Isaac?** *(They named him Isaac because Sarah was so joyful that she laughed. The name Isaac means "he laughs.")*
- **What did God ask Abraham to sacrifice on Mount Moriah?** *(His son, Isaac)*
- **How was Abraham faithful to God?** *(Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac.)*
- **What did God provide for Abraham to sacrifice instead?** *(A ram)*

SAY: How do you think Abraham felt while climbing the mountain with the son whom he loved so much, the son whom he was going to sacrifice? (Invite a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)

SAY: Abraham must have felt absolutely awful. However, no matter

how he felt or how difficult it was, Abraham loved God more. Abraham showed this by his following through on what God had asked him to do. When God saw that Abraham trusted Him, God provided another sacrifice, a ram. Many, many years later, God would provide the ultimate sacrifice: His own Son, Jesus.

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: God told Abraham to sacrifice his son, but He provided a ram for Abraham to kill instead. In the same way, God provided the ultimate sacrifice for all of us: His Son, Jesus.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

And Abram believed the LORD *(hand on heart, looking up)*,
and the LORD counted him as righteous *(stand tall with one fist on chest)*
because of his faith *(bring hands together in heart shape)*.

Genesis 15:6 (NLT)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Designate one area (or corner of the room) as "true" and another area (or corner) as "false." Explain that you will make statements about the Bible story. The children are to run to the area (or corner) based on whether the statement is "true" or "false." For statements that are false, call on a volunteer to point out (or correct) what was false. Use the sample statements provided below or create your own:

- **Abraham and Sarah were very young when they had their son.** *(False)*
- **Abraham and Sarah named their son Frank.** *(False)*
- **Sarah laughed when their son was born because she was so joyful.** *(True)*
- **The name Isaac means "he laughs."** *(True)*
- **God told Abraham to go play a game with Isaac on the mountain.** *(False)*
- **Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac for God.** *(True)*
- **God provided Abraham with a ram to sacrifice instead of Isaac.** *(True)*

For younger children...
Begin the activity by explaining that "true" means that something is correct or accurate and "false" means that something is made up or not true. Then, start the game off with a few very easyto understand true/false statements that are not relatedto the story.

For older children...
Make the activity even more challenging by including questions about previous lessons, too. If time permits, extend the activity further by inviting a volunteer to come up with different true/false statements also.

Provide each child with some gray or brown construction paper. *(Tissue paper can also be used for this step.)* Instruct them to rip up the paper into small pieces, then roll it up into small balls. Next, provide each child with a piece of white construction paper and invite them to glue the balls onto the paper to create an altar, just like the altar that Abraham used for his sacrifice to God.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac and then provided a ram instead. God no longer needs our sacrifices because of what Jesus has already done: Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins. But we can honor God by choosing to make personal sacrifices: using our time and talents to serve Him and bless others.

As they glue the paper stones onto their altars, encourage the children to think of different ways they can make personal sacrifices to God with their own time, choices and abilities.

Character Trait: Faithful

(10 minutes)

SAY: Being faithful means being loyal, true, and trustworthy. God was faithful to give Abraham and Sarah a son, Isaac. Abraham showed faithfulness to God by being willing to sacrifice Isaac for God.

Encourage the children to think more about faithfulness by asking the following:

- **What is the opposite of being faithful?** *(Not trustworthy, undependable, unreliable)*
- **God was faithful to keep His promise to Abraham by giving him a son. In what ways has God kept His promises to you?** *(Answers will vary but may include providing food, shelter, clothing, people to care for them, and providing forgiveness from sin through His Son, Jesus.)*
- **What are some specific ways you can be faithful to God?** *(Answers will vary but may include choosing to obey God even when it is difficult, learning about/studying God's Word, and sharing Jesus with others.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Think about a promise that you have made to someone else or something you said that you would do. Have you kept this promise or commitment? *(Answers will vary.)*

Challenge the children to show that they are faithful by always trying to follow through on what they promise.

Closing:
(2 minutes)

SAY: One way we show love and respect towards others is by being faithful. God showed His faithfulness to Abraham by providing a son. Abraham was faithful to show that he loved God above everything else by being willing to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac. All of us can show God our love and faithfulness by making sacrifices of our time, choosing to spend time talking with God in prayer and learning more about Him by studying His Word, the Bible.

Prayer:
(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for being a God who is faithful. Help us to show our thankfulness by proving to be faithful to You always, even when it is difficult.
Amen.

Notes