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God's Promise to Abraham and Sarah

Scripture: Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

Theme: Nothing is too hard for the Lord

4th-6th Grade (Ages 9-11)

Free curriculum for small and rural churches

Lesson Overview

Lesson Overview: "Abraham's Faith , A Test of Trust" Abraham's Story of Trusting God's Plan God often tests our faith by asking us to step out in trust, even when it doesn't make sense. In Genesis 22, Abraham's faith was put to the ultimate test. God told him to take Isaac, his beloved son, and sacrifice him. Abraham, though sad, obeyed, showing that he trusted God more than his own feelings. This story reminds us that sometimes God asks us to do things that seem scary or impossible, but He always provides a way to trust Him. God's Heart and Our Obedience God didn't just ask Abraham to sacrifice Isaac; He had a bigger plan. He saw that Abraham's faith would make him a man after God's own heart. When Abraham was willing to obey, even when it hurt, God honored that heart attitude. Today, we might feel afraid when God asks us to trust Him with something important, like sharing our faith, forgiving someone, or trusting Him in a tough situation. Can we ask God to help us trust Him, even when it's hard? Abraham's Doubts and God's Provision Abraham didn't hesitate for a second before taking Isaac up the mountain. But was he truly trusting God, or just going through the motions? After Isaac was almost sacrificed, God stopped Abraham with a voice from heaven: "Abraham, Abraham!" The word that came back was not "Kill him!" but "Look now, I am blessed with many sons." God provided Isaac right on the altar as a ram, showing that He always provides what we need, even in the hardest moments! What Can We Learn from Abraham? Abraham's story teaches us that God tests our faith so we can grow stronger in Him. When we face challenges, we can ask: Where is God in this? and How can I trust Him? Sometimes, like Abraham, we might not understand God's plan, but His faithfulness never fails. Let's take a moment to thank God for the times He's shown us He's good, even when things seem hard. Personal Application: Trusting God Today Think of a time when you felt afraid to trust God. Maybe it was sharing your secret, praying for someone in need, or waiting for something important. How can you ask God to help you trust Him more, like Abraham did? Let's pray together: "Lord, help me to trust You even when I don't understand. Give me strength like Abraham's faith." Then, ask God to remind you of times He's provided for you before, He's faithful! Deeper Questions for Discussion: 1. Why do you think God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac? How does this show God's love for us? 2. What's one thing you're afraid to trust God with? How can you pray for courage today? 3. Abraham's family was blessed because of his

faith. How can your faith bless others? (Encourage kids to draw a picture of Abraham and Isaac, or write a short prayer about trusting God!)

Bible Story

Sunday School Lesson: Abraham's Faith , The Offering of Isaac (Genesis 22:1-19)

One day, God called Abraham and said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains." Abraham didn't question God; he trusted Him completely. He didn't even hesitate, he packed everything he needed (including wood for the fire and Isaac's clothes) and set out with his son. Isaac didn't know why they were going, but he obediently walked along beside his father, carrying the wood. They traveled far until they reached the mountain where Abraham built an altar and stacked the wood on top. Isaac noticed the fire and the knife but didn't ask questions. When Abraham placed the wood on Isaac's shoulders, he handed him the knife, saying, "My son, do what you can. God will provide." Isaac obediently stepped forward, believing his father would protect him. Just as Abraham raised the knife to strike Isaac, an angel of the Lord called from heaven, "Abraham! Do not lay a hand on the boy!" God provided a ram trapped in a thicket, and Abraham took it as his offering instead. When they returned home, Abraham and Sarah were amazed, God had kept His promise!

Deeper Questions for Discussion: 1. Why did Abraham and Isaac go without asking questions? 2. How did Isaac feel when he thought his father was going to hurt him? 3. What does it mean to trust God even when things seem scary?

Personal Application: Abraham's faith was tested like never before. Even when God asked an impossible thing, he obeyed, just as we should when God asks us to trust Him. Sometimes, like Isaac, we might feel afraid, but God can provide what we need. Can you think of a time you trusted God even when it was hard? How did it feel?

This story teaches that God's love is stronger than our fears, and His promises are true. Even when we don't understand, we can trust Him to be with us, just as He was with Abraham.

Key Verse

Genesis 18:14

Genesis 22:14: "The Lord Will Provide" Long ago, a brave man named Abraham had a big test. God asked him to take his special son, Isaac, and go far away to offer him as a sacrifice, a very hard thing to do. Abraham thought, "What if I fail? What if I'm wrong about God?" But he trusted God anyway, knowing that God had his back. That's when God showed Abraham something amazing. While Abraham was preparing to sacrifice Isaac, a messenger from God stopped him! He said, "I'm going to provide a way to save Isaac, don't do it!" Abraham wasn't sure what God would do, but he kept trusting. After that, Abraham named the place "The Lord Will Provide" because he knew God had a plan, even when things seemed scary. This story teaches us that even when things look hard, God is always there to help. Sometimes, like Abraham, we might not understand exactly what God will do, but we can still trust Him. Do you ever feel unsure about something big in your life? How can you trust God like Abraham did? God often works in unexpected ways! Maybe he'll give you a new friend, help you get over a fear, or show you a special gift. Abraham's story reminds us that no matter what, God is always providing what we need, even when we can't see it yet. This verse also reminds us to be brave like Abraham. Sometimes, we have to make hard choices or wait for God to show up, just like he did for Isaac. How can you be brave today, trusting that God is right there with you? Personal Application: - Write down one thing you're worried about and pray, "Lord, I trust You like Abraham did!" - Draw or describe a place where you feel God is "providing" for you, maybe it's a kind friend, a new skill, or just knowing He loves you. - Ask a grown-up: "What's one way God has helped me before? How can I trust Him today?" Abraham's faith didn't make the sacrifice easier, but it made him strong! Will you choose to trust God like him?

Activities

Activity 1:

A game where students act out key moments from Abraham's story while searching for clues tied to faith. They'll discuss how Isaac's role mirrors their own experiences of waiting on God.

1. Set the Scene (2 min): Read Genesis 22:1, 3 aloud, emphasizing God's command: "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you." Ask: What would it take for you to obey God even if it felt scary?
2. Create the Chain (5 min):
3. Give each student a paper strip. Ask them to fold one corner into a triangle and glue it to the end of the strip to form a loop. This makes a "link" in the chain.
4. Students draw or write one way they've trusted God in the past (e.g., "I prayed for my little sister when she fell" or "I waited for my soccer team to win"). Add this to their strip.
5. Continue making 4, 5 links for each student, placing them in a circle around the room to form a chain.
6. Walk the Mountain (5 min):
7. Have students hold hands to walk around the chain, saying aloud: "As we walked, we saw God's promises unfold, like when He stopped Abraham from killing Isaac!" (Read Genesis 22:11, 14.)
8. Pause at each link. Ask: What did that example teach you about trusting God?
9. Personalize the Chain (3 min): Students glue their chain to a poster board labeled "My Faith Journey." They'll add their own "mountain" challenge and how they've trusted God through it. Example: "When I was afraid to speak up in class, I prayed for courage."
2. "The Three Steps of Trust" Scavenger Hunt
11. Prepare Clues (5 min before class):
12. Hide 5, 7 clues around the room (e.g., under chairs, taped to walls). Each clue corresponds to a biblical moment:
13. Clue 1 (Packing): "Pack a bag for a trip, write 'Trust God's plan' on it." (Abraham prepares Isaac.)
14. Clue 2 (Mountain): "Draw a picture of a mountain. Label it 'Where I go to God.'" (Abraham heads to Moriah.)
15. Clue 3 (The Knife): "Write down one thing you're afraid to do for God." (Abraham holds the knife.)
16. Clue 4 (The Ramp): "Build a triangle with sticks/blocks. Write 'God stops the sacrifice' on it." (God provides a ram.)
17. Clue 5 (Return): "Share how God's answer changed your heart today." (Isaac returns safe.)
18. Launch the Hunt (5 min):
19. Read Genesis 22:1, 4 together, then ask: What was Abraham's biggest test of faith? How can we trust God like him?
20. Divide students into teams of 3, 5. Give each team a "map" (a simple diagram of the room with clue locations).
21. Teams solve clues by answering questions or completing tasks (e.g., "Draw the knife's path" or "Tell a time God answered your prayer").
22. Final Challenge (3 min):
23. At the last clue (e.g., "My Waiting Time"), teams must write a prayer for someone who is waiting on God. Read them aloud.
24. Reward teams with prizes and discuss: How did Isaac's story show us that God always has a plan?
25. Reflection (2 min): Ask:
26. When have you felt like Abraham, waiting or obeying God in a hard way?
27. How did Isaac's return remind you that God keeps His promises?
28. What's one step you'll take today to trust God more, like Abraham?
29. Bonus Tip: For deeper connection, end with a prayer: "Lord, help us like Isaac to believe You'll never let us go without You. Show us how to trust You in our 'mountains!'"

Discussion Questions

- Here are four open-ended discussion questions for upper elementary students about Abraham's Faith , The Offering of Isaac (Genesis 22:1-19). These questions encourage deeper reflection, personal connection, and thoughtful exploration of the story's themes.
- 1. Faith Can Look Like Sacrifice
 - Genesis 22 tells us that Abraham was willing to give up Isaac, his son, his greatest treasure, as an act of faith. Isaac had been promised to Abraham and Sarah, and though they didn't fully understand, God asked Abraham to trust Him completely. How do you think Abraham felt when God asked him to do this? Was he scared, brave, or maybe a little confused? Why? How can you show faith in God when you have something very important to you, like your time, your friends, or even your dreams? What might God be asking you to trust Him with right now?
- 2. The Ultimate Test of Love
 - One of the most powerful parts of this story is that God stopped Abraham from killing Isaac and gave him a different gift instead. God said, "By yourself have I sworn: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring like the stars of heaven and like the sand which is on the seashore; your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies." (Genesis 22:16-18) God promised Abraham a family so big it was impossible to count. How do you think Isaac felt when he realized God had a bigger plan? What does this passage tell us about how God often works in our lives, even when things look scary or confusing? Can you think of a time when you trusted God with something big, even if you didn't fully understand the answer?
- 3. How Do We Respond When God Asks Something Hard?
 - Abraham's story shows that faith doesn't mean we never feel afraid, it means we still choose to trust God, even when it's hard. Have you ever had a moment where you didn't know what to do, but you still felt like you had to take a step forward? Maybe it was a big decision, like choosing a new school, asking someone to be your friend, or even just trusting that God will guide you in the right way. What did you learn about yourself in that moment? How did it make you feel to make that choice? Can you think of a time when you felt like God was asking you to make a hard sacrifice, even if you didn't know what to do? What did you do?
- 4. The Weight of God's Promises
 - Abraham's faith wasn't just about one moment, it was about his whole life. He trusted God's promises even when he didn't see the results yet. God promised him descendants like stars and sand, and though Abraham and Sarah didn't have a child for a long time, God kept His word. How does it feel to trust in something or someone that you can't see yet? Maybe it's waiting for a new job, a healing in your family, or just knowing that God will take care of you even when things are tough. How can you hold onto God's promises when life feels uncertain? What would it look like for you to trust Him more in the next month?
 - These questions encourage students to reflect on faith, sacrifice, trust, and the unseen promises of God while making connections to their own lives.

Prayer Focus

Here's a prayer focus for your lesson on Abraham's Faith, written to inspire young hearts with wonder, reflection, and trust: "Heavenly Father, You know our hearts better than anyone, especially when we're afraid or unsure. Just like Abraham, we sometimes feel stretched in ways that scare us, whether it's trusting You with big decisions, standing up for what's right, or believing that even when things seem impossible, You still love us. Today, we thank You for showing us that faith isn't just about never feeling afraid, but about choosing to trust You despite the fear. Help us to remember that You've never let us walk alone, even when we feel alone. Give us the courage to ask deeper questions: Where do I put my trust today? How can I show my faith when things get hard? And when we hesitate, like Abraham did, remind us that You're always with us, holding our hands, no matter what. Amen." How

to Use This with Your Class: 1. Read the Story Together (Genesis 22:1-19): Start by sharing the passage and letting students share their own "stories of fear and trust" (even if it's just a time they hesitated or doubted). 2. Prayer Moment: Hold up a prayer as a group, then pause to ask: "What's one way we can trust God more like Abraham did?" "When was a time you felt afraid to obey?" 3. Personal Reflection: Have students write or whisper in their prayer journals: "Today, I will trust God in one small thing" (e.g., a test, a friend's request, or even just trusting Him with their next step). 4. Action Step: Challenge them to draw or write a "faith promise" (e.g., "I'll ask You to help me trust You this week"). Why This Works for Ages 9-11: - Emotional Hook: Names their struggles (fear, hesitation) to make it relatable. - Deeper Questions: Encourages them to apply faith, not just memorize it. - Gentle Challenge: Ends with action, not just words. Would you like a follow-up discussion question or a creative way to act out the story?

>> Missions Spotlight

The Akha people of northern Thailand and Myanmar have a tradition of animal sacrifice. When missionaries share the story of Abraham and Isaac, the Akha understand immediately, and the truth that 'God provides the lamb' transforms their understanding of sacrifice forever.

-> To the Cross

Abraham told Isaac, 'God Himself will provide the lamb' (Genesis 22:8). And He did, Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Just as God provided a ram instead of Isaac, He provided Jesus instead of us.