

LESSON AIM:

Abraham's life is important because:

- 1) Abraham was a man of faith; He believed God. Sometimes his faith faltered but he grew in faith and is known in the NT as the father of the faithful.
- 2) God promised that He would give to Abraham's descendents the land we know today as Israel.
- 3) Through Abraham's descendents the Messiah would come.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Genesis 21:1-8; 22:1-14

REVIEW QUESTIONS: (*"Ok, who remembers from last week's lesson..."*)

- 1) How were Adam and Eve deceived in the garden?
- 2) What was God's promise to Adam and Eve after they sinned?
- 3) Can someone explain last week's Bible verse in their own words?

I. Introduction

Suppose God gave you something you really wanted, something you had even prayed for many times. Then God said He wanted you to give it back (Examples: friend moves away; family member dies). How would you feel toward God? Would you have faith to obey Him? Would the man in our story today have faith to obey God in his hard test?

II. Progression of Events

A. God fulfilled His promise to Abraham and Sarah by giving them a son, Isaac (21:1-7)

[Some thirty years before, God had made a covenant with Abraham promising him that he would become the father of a great nation. When Abraham was a hundred years old and Sarah was ninety years old, God miraculously gave them a son.]

B. Some time later God tested Abraham by ordering him to offer this promised son on Mt. Moriah as a burnt sacrifice (22:1, 2).

[Isaac was a young man at the time. He was not married and did not have any children. God had promised to establish a covenant with Isaac and his descendants (Genesis 17:19). How could this happen if Isaac was killed now? God was truly testing Abraham's faith by asking him to sacrifice the promised son for whom he had waited so long. God wanted Abraham to show that he put Him first. God never intended to allow him to kill his son.]

C. Abraham obeyed, beginning the journey the next morning (v.3).

[Abraham took Isaac and two servants with him, along with the wood for the burnt offering. Surely Abraham could not understand why God was asking him to kill his only son. God had asked him to do other hard things, but this was the hardest test ever.]

Abraham knew that God loved him and that he could trust Him even in this hard test. Abraham was showing how much faith he had in God by obeying Him and not questioning. Did you know that when we are God's children, He tests you and me? God uses these tests to strengthen our faith (**James 1:2-4**) and make us better able to help others who are also going through hard tests (**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**).

If you know Jesus as your Savior, God wants you to have faith to obey Him even when it's hard. Maybe God has allowed you to have hard times that you don't understand. Remember that God is in control of all things and has a special plan He is carrying out in your life. Maybe your parents have been separated or divorced and there is nothing you can do about it. You feel so helpless and sad. It could be that someone in your family died and you don't know why it had to happen. Perhaps you have some other difficult problem in your life. These are all hard

tests. But hard things can cause you to put more faith in God. When hard things come into your life, you could get angry with God or feel discouraged or disobey His word. But when you realize God is in control and you put your faith in Him, you'll obey even though you don't understand. **2 Corinthians 5:7** says that we Christians **"walk [live] by faith, not by sight."** Living by faith means that we truly believe what God has said and obey Him no matter what. Sometimes it isn't easy, but God is with us in the test. He will provide strength and courage and all that we need to go through it and come out winners. Our confidence needs to be in God alone. God had asked Abraham to do a very difficult thing, but Abraham was so confident in the Lord that He immediately obeyed.

D. Arriving at Mt. Moriah three days later, Abraham instructed his servants to wait while he and Isaac went up to the mountain to worship (v. 4-6).

[Abraham had faith that both he and his son would return (Hebrews 11:19).]

E. Abraham responds in faith to Isaac's question (v. 7-8).

F. Abraham built an altar and tied his son to it (v. 9).

G. Abraham was showing his faith by obeying God without questioning; even sacrificing the thing he had waited so long for! Do you have that kind of faith in God? Did you know that your actions show how much you really trust Him? **James 2:17** says that **"faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."** In other words, if you are really God's child and your faith is in Him, other will know it because of the way you act--you will obey the Lord. *(Discuss ways the children express their faith in God by their choices and actions.)*

III. Climax

When Abraham lifted the knife to kill Isaac, God knew that he would hold nothing back. An angel came and stopped Abraham! Abraham was willing to give everything to God, even his only son. God would certainly honor his faith. Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in a bush by its horns. God provided a substitute; Abraham offered the ram instead of Isaac (v. 13).

IV. Ending

A. Conclusion

Abraham named the place "The Lord Will Provide" (YHWH Yireh) (v. 14).

B. Challenge

Abraham had faith to obey God even when it was difficult. If Jesus is your Savior, maybe this week God will give you a hard test. You can show your faith in God by obeying Him even when it is hard. Will you put your faith in Him even though you don't understand why this thing had to happen? Will you trust Him and obey His Word? (James 2:17) Will you be pleasant, joyful, and kind to others even when you have problems? Others will know your actions that you are trusting God.

[Have a special prayer time so that children can thank the Lord that they can trust Him as Abraham did and ask Him to deepen their faith as a result of the tests that they are going through.]

Memory Verse:

"Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

Romans 4:3