

Get Ready!

Abraham’s Faith is Tested

By: Sara See



Text

Genesis 22:1-14

Key Quest Verse

“By faith Abraham . . . offered up Isaac” (Hebrews 11:17a).

Bible Background

Nearly thirty years had passed since the day God spoke to Abraham and told him to leave Ur and follow Him to a new country. Because there was trouble between Lot and Abraham’s servants, they parted. Genesis 13:12 says, “Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom.”

But since they had left their homeland, and God promised Abraham a son, he still had no son. He and Sarah were getting older and that seemed to be the problem. I guess “wait” isn’t in our vocabulary very often either. When we pray we expect an answer the next minute, or maybe we can wait a day or two. When we don’t receive an answer that we deserve, we are off to find the answer we want.

Psalm 102:2 says, “Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress. Turn your ear to me; when I call, answer me quickly.” We aren’t the only ones wanting an immediate reply.

Now the time has come for Abraham and Sarah to have a son . . . just one. Even though Hagar bore a son for Abraham, God told them that their ‘heir’ would be through both of them, not a slave. This shows us that God is exact.

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:

Know: Obey God, because He knows what is best for me.

Feel: Although I don't always obey my parents, they still love me.

Do: Be obedient to God and serve Him to the best of my ability.

Leader's Devotion

Make a list of your students' names and think about their needs. Then pray for them this week. They need someone who knows about pressures being in their life, like you. And, pressures on your students are tremendous.

If a student is absent, mail their lesson to them with a note telling them that they were missed.

This is a difficult lesson about Abraham. He was willing to sacrifice his only son when God asked him. This reminds us of what God did for you and me . . . permitting His only son, Jesus, to die for us. And, Jesus went willingly – just as Isaac did for Abraham. That's obedience and trust.

May God's love surround you this week and give you strength to do His will, as you prepare the lesson.

Get Set!

Option A

Materials: Radio

Procedure: Have a radio set up. Be sure it is NOT tuned properly, but in-between stations. Tell the children you have a special song you want them to hear. Turn it on rather loudly. Show annoyance that it isn’t working properly. **“I can’t believe this . . . What in the world is wrong, here . . . This is nothing but static. You know, listening to the radio is a lot like listening for God’s word. Sometimes we feel like we’re right on target, with great reception and we know we are pleasing God and we hear Him loud and clear! Other times, when we haven’t been praying, or reading our Bible, or we are generally just making a mess of things, all we seem to hear is static.** Adjust the radio so that a station comes in loud and clear.

We are going to learn about a man in the Bible that was so in tune with God that he obeyed Him and was ready to make an extreme sacrifice! But, he even had to go through a little adjusting!

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: A medium sized magnet, a screwdriver and paper clips

Procedure: First you hold the screwdriver in one hand. Then you take a magnet and run it over the end repeatedly in only ONE direction for several minutes. The more you do it, the more magnetized the tool becomes. Do this before class. Use the above illustration to tell your students how God wants us to be close to Him through all kinds of sad or happy times. God is always there like the magnet, but it is up to us to keep close, obeying our parents, and God. Ask the students, **what happens if we go away from God?** Then pull the paper clips off of the screwdriver. Let them know that Abraham didn’t always obey God. He tried to do things his own way when he got tired of waiting, but he did return to God, and trusted Him a lot more than he did after Isaac was born. **Now you know how to get the “power boost” back!**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY



Get Set!**Bible Story**

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

Can you think of something you have wanted more than anything else in the world? We have learned about how hard it is to have to wait for something like this. How would you feel if, when you had had it only a short time, you had to give it back? Our story today is about a man, Abraham, who was asked to give up something he had waited for a long, long time. What do you think he did? Let’s open our Bibles and find out. Open your Bibles to Genesis 22:1-14.

When Abraham obeyed God and left his hometown of Ur, God promised to make a great nation from his family, but he had no children.

Abraham had waited over 30 years for a son. How happy Abraham was to have Isaac.

Day after day, he watched Isaac grow. He thought of the promises of God, and Abraham taught Isaac to be willing to obey God’s voice, just as he did many other times.

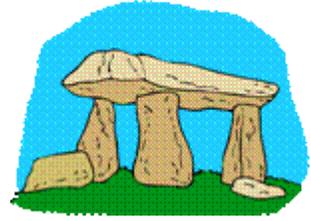
One day God said, Gen. 22:1 “I am going to see if Abraham really and truly loves me. I will find out if he loves me more than he loves his son.”

What did God say to Abraham? Find verse 2 and read it. (Abraham said “ Here I am.”) In verse 3, where did Abraham go? (Where God told him.) In verse 4, what did Abraham see? (He saw the place in the distance.) In verse 5, Abraham told his servants to do what? (Wait , they would be back.) Look at verse 6. Who carried the wood for the burnt offering? (Isaac.) In verse 7, what did Isaac ask his father about? (Where the lamb was.) In verse 8, what was Abraham’s answer? (God will provide.)

We find out that Abraham built an altar and when he was finished. In verse 9, where did Isaac go? (Up on the altar with the wood.) In verse 10, what was Abraham going to do with the knife? (Kill his son.) Why did God ask Abraham to do this? Do you remember? (Verse 1, God tested Abraham to see if he loved Him more than his son.) In verse 11, who stopped Abraham from killing Isaac? (An angel of the Lord.)

Let’s read together in verse 12 what the angel said to Abraham. In verse 13, what did Abraham see in the bushes or thicket? (A ram.) In verse 14, Abraham gave this place a special name (“on the mountain of the Lord it will be provided”).

Together, Abraham and Isaac walked down the mountain where the servants were waiting, and they began their journey home. How happy they were that they had obeyed God and had been faithful to Him! That shows a lot of trust!

Go!**Diorama of Faith****DRAMA**

Materials: Small stones to build an altar, or use play dough, twigs, 2 rounded clothespins, material for Abraham and Isaac's clothes, a rubber band to go around the waist, a toy sheep or run off copies of the paper ram that gets caught in the bushes in the Resource Pages

Quest Connection

What does sacrifice mean? (Giving up something meaningful.) **We are going to put together a diorama that will help us to retell the story of Abraham's sacrifice in Genesis 22:1-14.**

Procedure: Have the students help you build an altar of small stones in the center of the table. Put twigs on the altar. Make Isaac and Abraham with the clothespins. Paint their faces with a felt pen. Make the characters look like Bible-time people. Cut a hole in the center of the material and put a rubber band to hold everything in place. One of the students can be the angel that grabs Abraham's arm.

Close

Let's look up in our Bible Genesis 22:1-14. Who would like to read the story out loud? Now we need someone to act out the part of Abraham and someone for Isaac. Close the class session with prayer.

Go!**Ram Sacrifice****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: Give each student the following: one 8”x 11” sheet of construction paper any color, one 8”x11” sheet of white, gray, or black construction paper for the ram’s head, body and wool, Resource Page “Ram Sacrifice,” pencil, scissors, glue, felt-tipped marking pens in assorted colors

Quest Connection

Who remembers what God provided Abraham to sacrifice instead of his son Isaac? (A ram.) Who can look in the Bible and find where the ram was? (Thicket, Genesis 22:13.) We are going to make a ram today to help us remember how Abraham obeyed God, even if it meant the ultimate sacrifice!

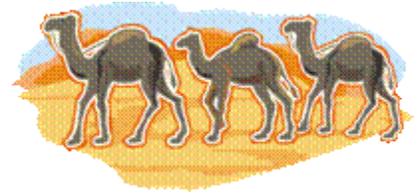
Procedure:

1. Using the pattern from the Resource Page, cut the lambs head from white, gray, or black construction paper. Save the scraps. Make ram’s horns out of scraps and glue them to the head.
2. Use felt-tipped marking pens to outline the facial features of the ram.
3. To make the ram’s wool, cut with a paper cutter, cut lots of strips 1/2” wide and 2” long.
4. Curl these strips around a pencil.
5. Glue the curls to the ram’s body, first attaching the ones near the back and overlapping them as you move toward the lamb’s head.
6. Glue the ram’s head in place.

* **Teacher Tip:** Packing peanuts would also work well for the ram’s wool.

Close

What are some things that the Bible tells us that we need to do to obey God? (Follow His word, pray, obey your parents, etc.) Let us pray together that God will help us to obey Him!

Go!

Memory Game**GAME**

Materials: “Camel Memory Game” resource page, poster board (any color), glue stick, (optional: magnetic strips, cookie sheet or long metal hot pad)

* Students could make their own games.

Quest Connection

When you mention the word faith, many people immediately think of Abraham. Why do you think this is? Briefly summarize the Bible Story. We are going to play a game today to see if you remember our Key Quest Verse.

Procedure: Color the camels. Cut out camels leaving some white around them. If you have magnetic strips, stick a small piece to the back of the camels. Camels will stick to cookie sheet or hot pads. Mix up the camels and let each student have a turn putting the verse in order.

Close

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if someone heard the word “faith” and they immediately thought of you? What are some ways we can show our friends our faith? Let’s make a list on our chalkboard.

Go!

Obey or Disobey**GAME**

Materials: 1 copy each of Resource Page “Obey or Disobey” game sheet and game cards, glue, poster board, small plastic sandwich bag, one die, different small stones for markers

Prepare Ahead: Glue each Resource Page to the poster board. Cut around game board. Cut apart game pieces. Put game pieces in plastic bag. Optional: Cover game board and playing cards with contact paper before cutting apart. Students could make their own games to take home to play with their families!

Quest Connection

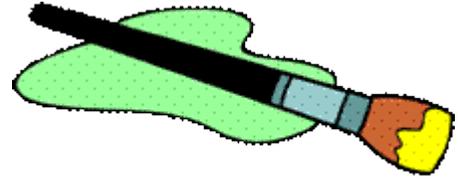
People years ago had choices to make just as we have to make choices to obey or disobey God today.

Procedure: Secretly write a number down and let the students choose a number. The one closest to yours goes first. Roll the die and count the number of spaces to land on. Students choose “Obey or Disobey” for their answers. If they miss the answer, they cannot move. Student then moves his or her stone that number of spaces. First player to finish is the winner.

Close

We must always obey God. What can we do if we mess up and don’t obey Him? (Pray and ask for His forgiveness.) Let’s pray right now.

Go!



Space Collage

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Materials: Black construction paper, copy of Resource Page “Space Collage,” white paints, drinking straws, powdered tempera paints (different colors), white paper 4”x 4” to put over the bubbles, a couple of old mugs or as many for the different colors you want, dishwashing liquid, scissors, paint brush, container lids and bottle tops, teaspoon, glue and water

Quest Connection

Let’s read in our Bibles Genesis 22:17-18. **“I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed because you have obeyed me.”** What are someone’s descendants? (Generations of their families.) **Have you ever looked up on a clear night at all the stars in the sky? Have you ever tried to count them? We are going to make our own night sky.**

Procedure:

1. Dot the piece of black paper with white paint to make a starry sky. Then put it aside to dry.
2. To make bubble paints, start by mixing some paint with half a cup of water so that it is fairly runny. (Good colors would be blue, red, green and orange.)
3. Add a squirt of dishwashing liquid to the paint. Stir well with a spoon until it is completely mixed in.
4. Place the straw in the mug and blow until the bubbles rise above the rim of the mug. You could stir the straw around the paint to make more bubbles.
* **Don’t suck on the straw or you will get a mouthful of bubbles and paint!!!**
5. Lay a piece of the 4”x 4” paper over the bubbles . . . gently! Then lift off the paper with out dragging it. Allow the paint to dry on the piece of paper. (Don’t leave the paper on the mug too long or the bubbles may smudge.)
6. To make planets, cut out the bubble prints using scissors. You could draw around bottle tops to make smaller planets, asteroids, and moons.
7. Glue them on the black construction paper. Glue Bible verse somewhere on the paper.

Close

Go!**Frozen Banana Treats**

FOOD (Do this activity first before the lesson so they can freeze or enjoy the treats the next class session!)

Materials: Firm bananas, honey, chopped nuts, sprinkles, tiny chocolate chips, ice cream sticks, large plates for each of the above ingredients, cling wrap, three saucers, and a pastry brush

Quest Connection

Can you imagine how Isaac felt after he realized that he was going to be the sacrifice? It was certainly a happy time when Abraham brought his son Isaac home! He was alive! It was really PARTY TIME! Let's celebrate and thank God for sparing Isaac!

Procedure: These cold foods will take a while to prepare, because you will have to freeze them. They are well worth the wait. They will take about an hour to freeze.

1. Pour four or five tablespoons of honey into a saucer. (If honey is too thick stand the jar or bottle in a little hot water for a minute or so.)
2. Halve the bananas. Insert a clean ice cream stick into each half banana. Holding it by the stick, brush it with honey.
3. Roll each banana in the saucer of nuts, sprinkles or tiny chocolate chips until covered.
4. Arrange the bananas on a plate and cover with cling wrap.
5. Freeze them for about an hour.

*Use the handles of plastic spoons if you do not have any ice cream sticks. Remove the frozen bananas from freezer ten minutes before you eat them!

Close

Let us remember that God blesses us in so many ways if we choose to obey Him! We always have a reason to celebrate when God is in control of our life!

Resource Page

SPACE COLLAGE

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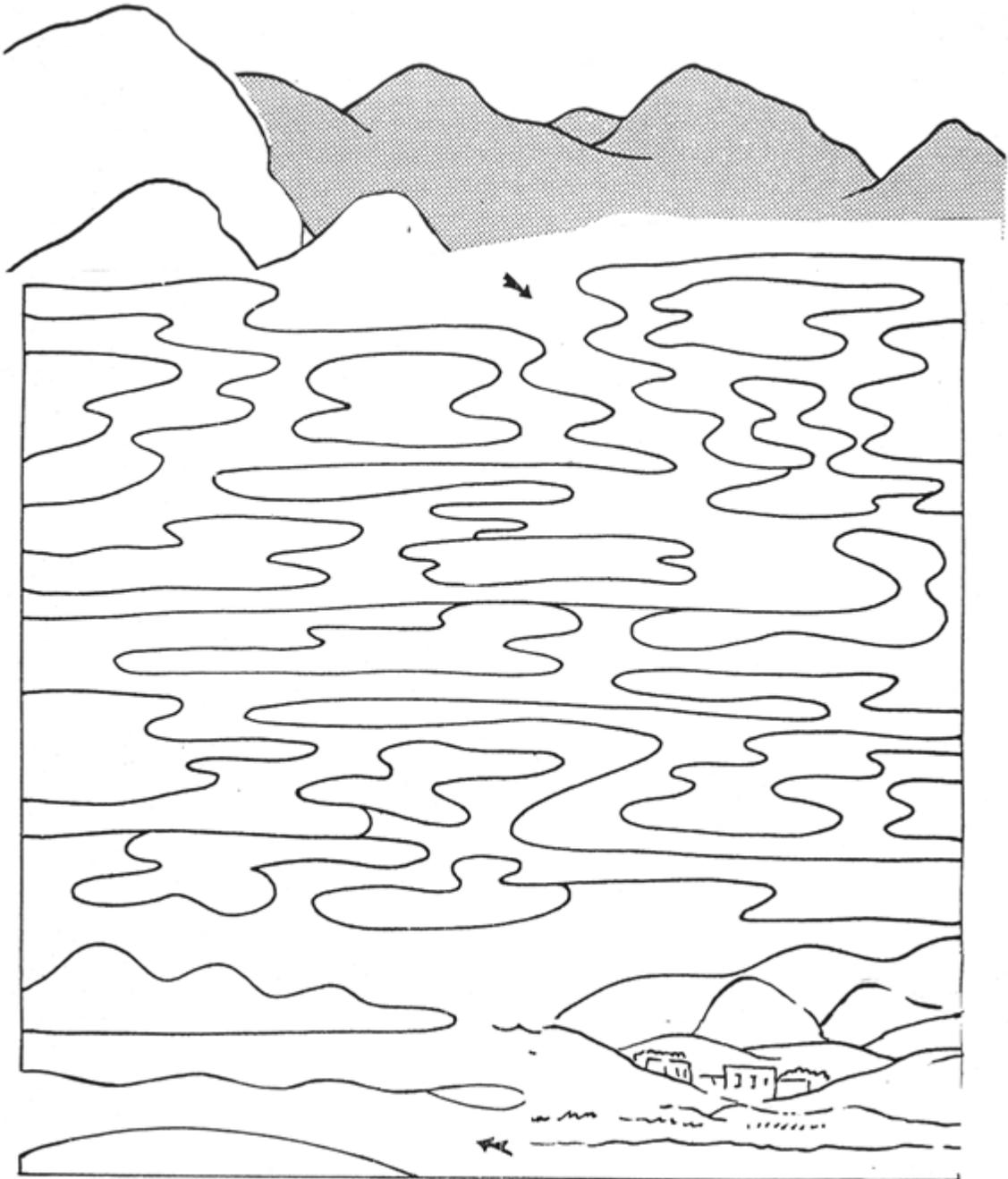
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**Find Your Way Down
From The Mountain...**



"By faith Abraham . . . offered up Isaac" (Hebrews 11:17a).

Journal Page

COMING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN

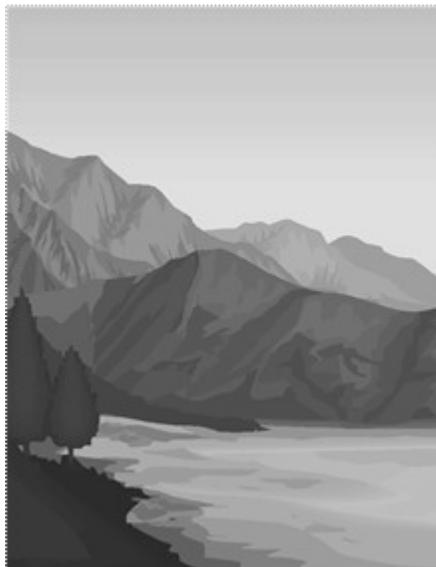
Today I am so happy, because _____.

I am going to visit someone who is special to me _____.

I will let others feel _____.

I like knowing God is _____ to me.

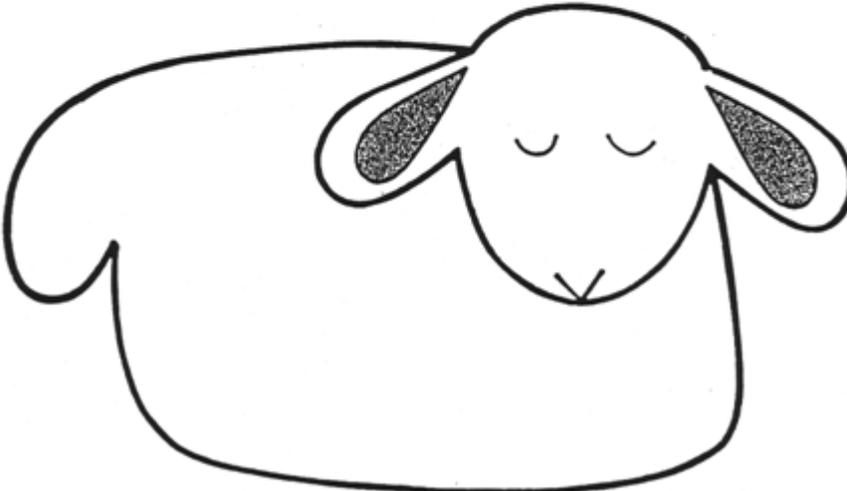
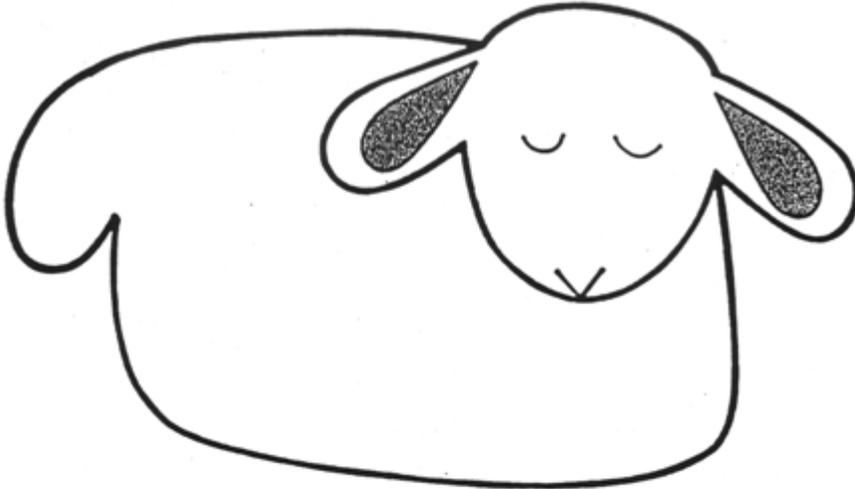
Here is a picture of my mountain . . .



Obey Or Disobey



<p>Someone asks you to steal candy from the store . . .</p>	<p>Dad wants you to take care of your pet . . .</p>	<p>When we _____ our parents, we will be blessed by God.</p>	<p>Isaac was taught to always _____ God.</p>
<p>Mom asked for us to bring the dirty clothes down to wash, I forgot . . .</p>	<p>The crossing guard told you to wait . . . Obey or Disobey . . .</p>	<p>I put my money in the Sunday School offering . . .</p>	<p>My teacher checks our homework, but I didn't do it . . .</p>
<p>Mom told you to clean up for dinner . . .</p>	<p>Your teacher asks you to help a student . . .</p>	<p>At school a friend tells you to give them the answer on a test . . .</p>	<p>At recess you should take turns, but I didn't want to follow the rules . . .</p>
<p>Obey Or Disobey</p>	<p>Your sister asks you to stay out of her room . . .</p>	<p>God wanted Abraham to _____ Him; then God knew he loved Him.</p>	<p>Dad wants you to help mom get dinner ready . . .</p>
		<p>Dad said I should mow the lawn, and I forgot . . .</p>	<p>Mom asked me to share my favorite toy with my brother, I did . . .</p>
		<p>Mom said I could go to a friend's house. I went somewhere else . . .</p>	<p>At school we were having a test. I studied . . .</p>
		<p>Mom said I could have one cookie. I took 3 . . .</p>	<p>I missed the bus because I stayed in bed too long . . .</p>



Resource Page

