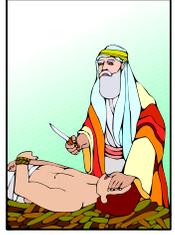


Get Ready!

Abraham's Faith

By: Betsy Moore



Text

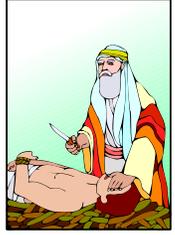
Genesis 21:1-8; 22:1-19

Key Quest Verse

“ . . . We must obey God . . . ” (Acts 5:29).

Bible Background

God tested Abraham not to trip him and watch him fall, but to deepen his capacity to obey God and develop his character. Just as fire refines ore to extract precious metals, God refines us through difficult circumstances. When we are tested we can complain, or we can try to see how God is stretching us to develop our character. That morning Abraham began one of the greatest acts of obedience recorded in history. He traveled 50 miles to Mount Moriah. Why did God ask Abraham to perform human sacrifice? Pagan nations practiced human sacrifice but God condemned this as a terrible sin (Lev. 20:1-5). God did not want Isaac to die, but He wanted Abraham to sacrifice Isaac in his heart, so it would be clear that Abraham loved God more than he loved his promised and long-awaited son. God was testing Abraham. The purpose of testing is to strengthen our character and deepen our commitment to God and his perfect timing. Through this difficult experience, Abraham strengthened his commitment to obey God. He also learned about God's ability to provide.

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:

Know: We must obey God.

Feel: Confident that God will bless us if we obey.

Do: Ask God to help me obey.

Leader's Devotion

Obeying God is sometimes a struggle, because it may mean giving up something we truly enjoy; spending more time studying His word. It is difficult to let go of what we deeply love. When we do what God asks, He returns to us far more than we could have ever dreamed. The spiritual benefits from God far outweigh our sacrifices. Abraham received abundant blessings, because he obeyed God.

Get Set!



Option A

RACE

Materials: 2 backpacks, cans of food, a brick, a five or ten pound weight, a bag of chips, a few sticks

Procedure: Who do you think the strongest person is in our class? Ask each student. Do you think you are pretty strong? How many of you think you could pick up this brick? Could you pick up a weight like this one? Let each child pick up different items. You’re all very strong. Who do you think the fastest person is in our class? Let’s take two of my fastest students and see what happens. Designate a starting line and a finishing line and place the two students at the starting line. Before you take off on your journey, I want each of you to put a backpack on. Now, in this backpack we’re just going to place a few items. Place all heavy items in one bag and only place the chips and sticks in the other bag. Now we’re ready to begin the race. No matter how much they protest, continue the race. Ready, Set, Go! Was that fun? (Name of child with heavy backpack) you did a great job carrying that heavy load. In today’s lesson, we’re going to learn how Abraham had a big burden to carry but he obeyed God and did just as God asked him to do. As a reward we’re going to let (winner) open the chips and share them while we listen to the story.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

SIMON SAYS

Materials: None



Procedure: Who knows how to play “Simon Says?” If Simon says to do something, you do it, but if Simon doesn’t say to do it, then you don’t do it. Let’s play.

Simon says, “Raise your hand.” Simon says, “Raise your other hand.” “Okay, put your hands down.” Uh-oh! I caught some of you on that one, didn’t I? Did Simon say, “Put your hands down?” Let’s start again. Simon says, “Put your hands down.” Simon says, “Clap your hands once.” “Touch your toes.” Simon says, “Touch your nose.” Simon says, “Stop touching your nose.” “Stick out your tongue.” Good! I didn’t trick you that time. You are learning to obey Simon in this game very well. Simon says, “sit down.” In the game of “Simon Says,” you do what Simon tells you to do, but in real life, you should do what God tells you to do. In our story today, we’re going to learn of a man who followed just what God said; that means he obeyed God.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



Bible Story

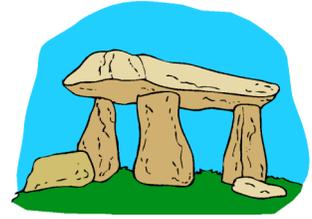
Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

Materials: Baby doll, backpack, sticks

Procedure: Abraham was a hundred years old when his long-promised baby arrived. Pick baby doll up and rock and talk to as if it were Isaac. **Isaac, I’m so happy God gave you to us! I love you so much!** Place baby down. **Before long Isaac was potty trained and started helping with work. He was probably as big as (choose a boy in the class to stand next to you). Let’s pretend (child’s name) is Isaac.** Pat him on the shoulders. **We are so proud of Isaac. You know we’ve waited a long time for him and we love him so much; we could never do enough for him. Thank you (name).** Now, Isaac continued to grow and Abraham and Sarah taught him about God and what a miracle baby he had been.

One day as Abraham was listening to God, God asked Abraham to do a strange thing. “Take your son that you love so much and go to Mount Moriah and sacrifice your son as a burnt offering.” Poor Abraham, what a burden to carry! Do you think his burden was heavier than (name of child with heavy backpack). After waiting for years and years for this son, and after telling all his friends and servants that this special son was a miracle from God, why could God be asking him to do such a thing? Why? But Abraham knew that God had a plan and he didn’t hesitate. He woke up early in the morning and cut wood and got his son Isaac and they started their trip. Now remember that Abraham was used to making altars. He had built altars all over the country to worship God. Abraham knew that God had spoken to him; he didn’t understand the command, but he decided to obey it. Have the class march around the room three times as you take the journey and continue to tell the story, also have one child wear a backpack and place the sticks for the altar in it. **He got up early in the morning and saddled his donkey and took two young servants with him. All day long Isaac and Abraham and the 2 servants traveled, and all the next day. What a sad trip this was! What do you think they talked about? On the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the place where God wanted him to go. Abraham said to his young servants, “Stay here with the donkey and Isaac and I will go and worship and come back again to you.” Abraham loaded the wood onto Isaac’s shoulders, and the two of them began to walk up the mountain. Isaac said, “Dad. I’ve got the wood and you’ve got the knife, but where is the lamb that is to be sacrificed?” How could Abraham answer him? “God will provide!” They walk together, and soon they were at the place God asked and Abraham built an altar. Then he took the wood from Isaac and arranged it on the altar. There was nothing else to do . . . He could wait no longer. I’m sure Abraham was crying when at last he had to take his son and tie him up and lay him on the altar. Isaac was strong enough to fight his father but he did not. Isaac listened to what God had told Abraham and he also obeyed. Abraham must have taken one last look at his son and stretched out his hand to sacrifice Isaac. An angel from God called, “Stop! Don’t hurt him! Now God knew that Abraham loved Him more than his own son.**

Abraham saw a ram caught in the bushes and offered it as a sacrifice. God was so proud of Abraham that He promised He would bless him and his family would be like the stars in the heavens and the sands of the sea. There would be too many to count! Our Church is named after this special man who had so much faith. Abraham was willing to give up his own son, just the way God gave His son, Jesus. Abraham had faith in God and trusted in Him completely. And God provided the lamb, just as Abraham said he would. When we put our trust in God, He always provides. What does God ask us to do? Worship, pray, share, love, etc. Can you obey God? How?

Go!**Altar to God****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: Magic nuddles (available at Hobby Lobby or craft stores)

Quest Connection

We're going to make something today that we don't see around here. We're making an altar similar to the ones Abraham made to worship God. Abraham kept God at the center of his life and built altars to worship and talk to God. Whenever someone saw one of the altars Abraham built, it reminded them that Abraham worshiped God regularly. He was a good example to others and trusted God. He was willing to give his own son just the way God gave His own son. What reminds you of worshiping God when you see it?

Procedure: Use a wet cloth to moisten the magic nuddles and build an altar of worship as Abraham did.

Close

Can you explain and tell someone else about the faith Abraham had?

Go!**Stars of the Sky & Sands of the Sea****OBJECT LESSON**

Materials: Plastic table cloth to cover the table, paint shirts, blue construction paper, paper saucer, yellow and white paint, old tooth brushes, or glitter glue and a toothpick, wet-ones for clean-up, Resource Page

Quest Connection

Can we trust God to take care of all our problems? We know that God provided for Abraham and Isaac! OBEY God!

Advanced Preparation: Copy activity sheet blue construction paper

Procedure: Give each student one sheet of blue construction paper and place one paint saucer for every two children. Let children dip their index finger into the yellow paint and place dots across the top half of the page for stars. Gently dip the toothbrush in the white paint and scrape your finger across the brush so the paint will splatter or place small dots of glitter-glue on paper with toothpicks to resemble sand.

Close

Look at our beautiful pictures we’ve made. Can you count the stars in the sky or the sand on the seashore? God promised Abraham that’s how many relatives he’d have. How do you think Abraham felt? Sing “Father Abraham.”

Go!**Desert Bread**

FOOD: Please check for food allergies!

Materials: Sliced bread cut into the shape of cactus, knife, paper plates, cookie sheet, soft margarine, 1 teaspoon cinnamon in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of sugar mixed, and a toaster oven or oven

Quest Connection

Abraham and Isaac had to take food with them on their trip since there were no restaurants. Maybe they took some bread along to eat. Today, we're going to make some sandy desert bread.

Procedure: First, take your cactus and spread it with margarine. Next, sprinkle on a little sandy mixture. Do you think they got sand in their food when they were eating? Next, we're going to toast our desert bread for just a few minutes. We need to place our bread on the cookie sheet to bake it. Do you think Abraham and Isaac got thirsty on their trip? What do you think they drank? Remember that Abraham trusted God and obeyed Him. Let's thank God for our snack and always obey Him.

Close

Prayer: Dear Father, help us, like Abraham, to put our trust in You and have faith that You will provide and bless us. Amen.

Go!**Guide Me****GAME**

Materials: 1 bucket of water, 2 empty buckets, 4 disposable cups, 2 tennis rackets, starting lines with full bucket of water and position 2 with an empty bucket

Quest Connection

Abraham depended on God to guide Him. Whatever God told Abraham to do, he obeyed.

Procedure: Divide your students into two teams. Give the first player (the carrier) on each team a paddle and a cup. Give the second player on each team a second cup. The teams will line up on either side of the full bucket of water. At the word “Go,” the person with the paddle will run (with the cup on the paddle) to position 2 for their team and touch the empty bucket. As soon as they touch the empty bucket they yell, “Go,” which lets their teammate #2 (the dipper) know it is time to dip their cup in the bucket of water and go to the person with the tennis racket and fills their cup. (The catch is that the person with the full cup of water must close their eyes when they get to the person with the cup on the tennis racket.) The person with the tennis racket must position the paddle to catch the water in the cup and tell the dipper when to pour and when to stop. When the cup is full, without touching the cup, the carrier must return to the bucket of water with the cup and tennis racket and dump the cup and water into the bucket. After the cup is dumped they must yell “Go,” which signals the person who was the dipper to return and now become the carrier. The first carrier goes to the end of the line and becomes the last dipper. The team that finishes first with the dipper becoming the carrier wins.

Close

We sure needed help in this game for someone to guide us didn’t we? Was it important to listen to the directions in this game? It is important for us to also listen to what God wants us to do and obey Him.

Go!**God's Promise****GROUP PROJECT**

Materials: Butcher paper, tape, markers

Quest Connection

Explain to the students that God has great plans for their lives. Discuss how God created everything and that you want to have them help you draw a beautiful picture of some of the things God made.

Advanced Preparation: Tape butcher paper together and place on the wall or floor to be worked on. It is beneficial to place a plastic tablecloth under the butcher paper in case of markers that might bleed through

Procedure: There are many things in our lesson today that God made, and maybe we should draw them. There was the mountain for Abraham and Isaac to climb and of course, the sky, and trees and bushes. We can't forget the water and let's make some sandy beaches, too. Make sure children make plenty of sand on the beaches. This picture is looking really good. Let's step back for a moment and look at our talent. Look at all that sand. Who can count all those grains of sand? What did God promise Abraham about the sand in our lesson today? Does God keep His promises?

Close

Abraham obeyed God and God promised to make his descendants or family like the grains of sand and the stars of the sky. There would be too many to count. We are in Abraham's family because we are in the Family of God.

Go!**Follow God****OBJECT LESSON**

Materials: Round strong magnets, glue, milk jug lids, paper clip, shoe box lid or poster board, picture of Abraham and Isaac, Resource Page

Quest Connection

It is sometimes hard to make Abraham and Isaac go where we want them to, but we learned that Abraham followed God!

Advanced Preparation: Copy “Follow God” from the Resource Page and the picture of Abraham and Isaac. Glue the round strong magnets on the outside of the milk jug lids

Procedure: Let students glue the “Follow God” picture in the shoebox lid or on poster board. Color the picture. Place the paper clip on the body of Abraham and Isaac. Tell the kids that the magnet will not work unless they follow the trail, so they should not put it in the trees, etc. Give each child a magnet lid (easier to hold with lid attached to it) and let them help Abraham and Isaac follow God up the mountain.

Close

Close class with prayer, thanking God for His promises.

**Resource Page: Stars of the Sky and
Sand of the Sea**

“I will bless you, and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky, and as the sand on the seashore” (Genesis 22:17).



**“ . . . We must obey God . . . ” (Acts 5:29).
Abraham’s Faith is tested**

Blacken in the letters with a lead pencil. After each letter is completely filled in, lay your paper flat on the table and run your hand across the letters. Look at your hand. Whenever you are around someone of great faith, the influence rubs off on you by his or her example. Stay close to those in your church that have great faith and learn from them. Remember the faith of Abraham! Abraham trusted in God and had faith, and he was given great blessings!

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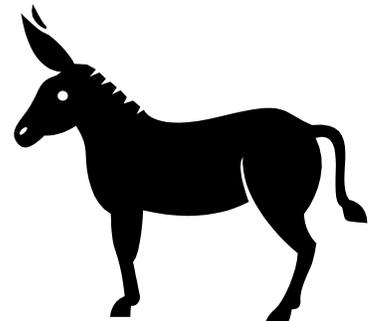
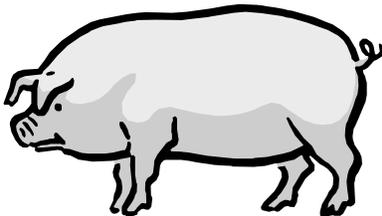
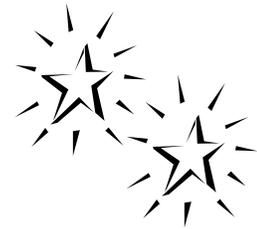
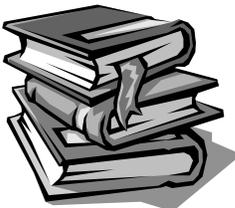
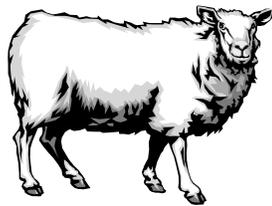
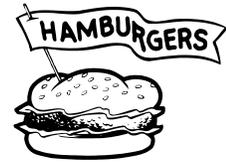
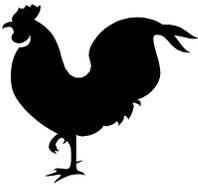
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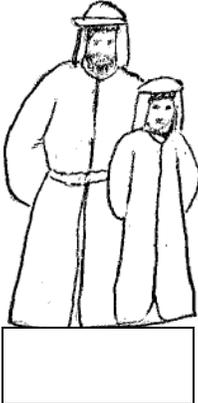
Abraham's Faith is tested
Genesis 21:1-8; 22:1-19

Circle the items that were in our story about Abraham and Isaac or that they took on their trip.



“ . . . We must obey God . . . ” (Acts 5:29).

Resource Page: Follow God



Abraham and Isaac for “Follow God” (color & fold bottom rectangle to make them stand; attach a paper clip on the bottom rectangle.)

Abraham's Faith is tested
Genesis 21:1-8; 22:1-19

Abraham trusted and obeyed God! God provided a ram for an offering. Can you find the sheep in the bushes and circle them?



“ . . . We must obey God . . . ” (Acts 5:29).

Abraham Obeyed God

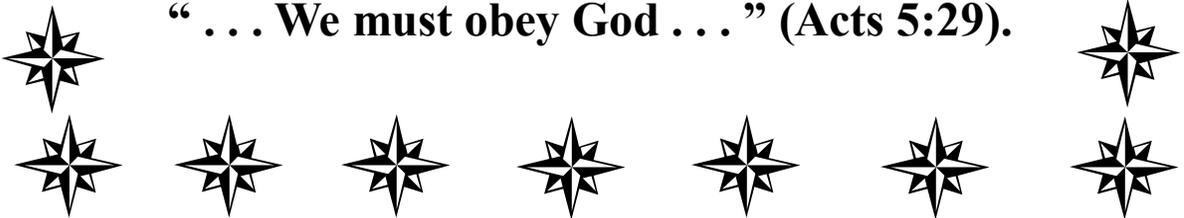
God promised Abraham that he would have a BIG family. Draw a picture of something God compared to Abraham's family, too. They would be like the _____ in the sky and the _____ of the sea. Draw a picture of your family.



Journal Page



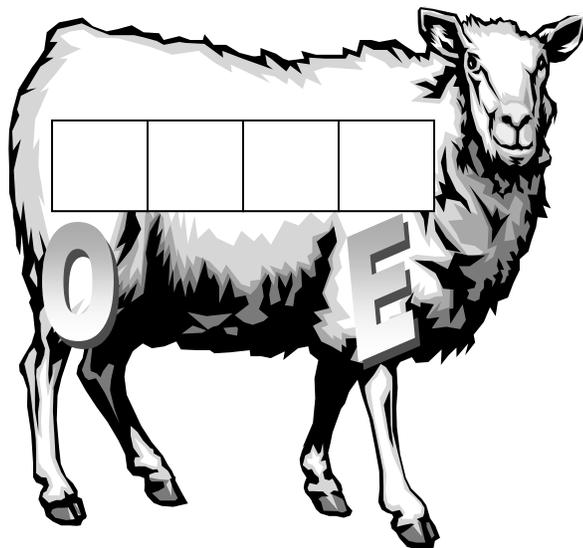
“... We must obey God ...” (Acts 5:29).



Journal Page

Abraham Did Obey God!

Abraham trusted God and found a ram in the bushes to sacrifice. Find the letters in the ram that tells us what we should do. Draw a picture to show how you obey God.



“... We must obey God ...” (Acts 5:29).