

UNIT 2 | SESSION 3

ABRAHAM AND ISAAC

GENESIS 22



CHRIST CONNECTION: Abraham loved God, and God provided a ram. God loves us and gave His Son, Jesus, to save the world from sin.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who keeps His promises? God keeps His promises.

KEY PASSAGE: The LORD is good, and His love lasts forever. Psalm 100:5

STORY POINT: Abraham trusted God.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

In Genesis 22, we read how God tested Abraham and led him to place an awe-inspiring trust in the faithful God over all creation. Abraham revealed a faith in God which reflected the trustworthiness of His character and promises. In today's story of Abraham and Isaac, we learn what it looks like to entrust everything to God and to believe He is worthy of our ultimate obedience.

What role does worship play in today's passage? How do we see God's faithfulness depicted from Genesis 22 throughout the rest of Scripture?

God called Abraham to offer up his only son as a sacrifice. Abraham's response to what seemed like such an outlandish command from God was to get up early and begin his journey to the unknown place God would reveal to him. In verse 5, we see the first use of the Hebrew word for "worship" in the Bible, spoken in reference to the sacrificial offering Abraham was willing to lay down before his God.

When Isaac inquired about the lamb for the offering, Abraham replied, "God himself will provide." Though, logically, the death of Abraham's son would make God's promises impossible, God would faithfully provide the ram they needed, and make good on His promises to bless Abraham through his only son.

Hebrews 11:19 states that Abraham "considered God to be able even to raise someone from the dead." Abraham's faith-filled obedience demonstrated that God could be trusted in any circumstance. With each new command he received from God, his response was to obey. He did not shrink back or busy himself with the lesser concerns of the world because God had proven Himself faithful over and over.

Abraham's deep love for his one and only son points us to the greater love God has for His Son, Jesus. Though this story tells of one man's obedient willingness to give back to God his most prized gift, we can know that God's love for His own Son reveals His great love for us as His people. Pray that God would reveal this same love to the children who will learn about Abraham and Isaac today and that they, too, would be willing to offer back to Him their lives as living sacrifices of worship.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10-15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30-40 MINUTES



LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



BONUS

60-65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Build a mountain

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ picture of a mountain



LEARN

Introduce the Bible story

- ☐ toy lamb
- ☐ picture of a mountain

Tell the Bible story

- ☐ "Abraham and Isaac" video (optional)

Review the Bible story

- ☐ toy lamb
- ☐ cardboard blocks or boxes, 1 per child
- ☐ picture of a mountain

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker
- ☐ baby rattle or noise shaker, 1 per child



LOVE

Care for a baby

- ☐ baby bath or plastic bin
- ☐ washcloth
- ☐ towel
- ☐ baby doll pajamas
- ☐ baby care items
- ☐ child-sized rocking chair

Create a mountain mural

- ☐ large piece of brown paper, 5–6 feet long



LIVE

Sing the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Verse Marker
- ☐ "Key Passage Sign Language" printable, 1 copy per child

Missions activity

- ☐ "Send Indianapolis" missions video (optional)
- ☐ craft sticks
- ☐ disposable cups
- ☐ toy cars

Snack and transition

- ☐ hand sanitizer (optional)
- ☐ "Shape Shadows" activity page, 1 per child
- ☐ Big Picture Cards for Families



BONUS

Say the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker

Who has the lamb?

- ☐ toy lamb

Build an altar

- ☐ cardboard blocks or empty boxes
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Trace baby items

- ☐ baby toy items



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

BUILD A MOUNTAIN

Place blocks on a table or in a designated area on the floor. Lay a mountain picture next to the blocks and display the Big Picture Question and Answer Poster. As children arrive, ask them to tell you if they have ever seen a mountain. Guide children to the blocks and the mountain picture. Point to the mountain and invite children to work together to use the blocks to build a mountain. As children build, read the big picture question and answer aloud.

SAY “I am so glad to see you today. Let me see the mountains that you built. How big were you able to build them? In today’s Bible story, we will continue to learn about Abraham. Remember, last week we heard that God changed Abram’s name to Abraham. We also heard that God made a promise to give Abraham a big family. Today, we will learn how **ABRAHAM TRUSTED GOD**. Then we are going to hear about something that happened on a mountain. This reminds me of the big picture question and answer which asks, Who keeps His promises? God keeps His promises.”

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Worship

* Everywhere I go
* Me and my house

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Display the mountain picture on a focal wall. Place a baby doll, blocks, and a toy lamb in the group time area. Walk through the classroom, tapping children gently on the shoulders, and asking them to come and help you build something in the group time area. When the children arrive, invite them to use the blocks to build an altar on the floor. Direct the children as needed. When the children have finished with the altar, guide them to sit down. Set the other items next to the altar.

SAY “Thank you for helping me build an altar. You will find out why it was needed when I tell you the Bible story. I also have several other items here with me. Tell me what they are. Listen carefully to the Bible story for when I mention these items and try to remember why they are important.”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Genesis 22. Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling points. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

ABRAHAM AND ISAAC

SAY “Abraham and Sarah waited a long time for God to give them a family. Finally, God kept His promise. Abraham and his wife had a baby boy! They named him Isaac.

One day, God told Abraham to do take Isaac to a mountain and give him to God as an offering. Abraham loved Isaac very much, but he trusted God. So Abraham obeyed God. Abraham, Isaac, and two helpers walked to the mountain. Then Abraham and Isaac went up the mountain by themselves.

“Where is the lamb to give to God?” Isaac asked.

Abraham said, “God will give us a lamb.”

Abraham built an altar and got ready to give Isaac to God. Then a voice called from heaven. The voice said, “Abraham, stop!” God could see that Abraham loved God the most. Abraham looked up and saw a ram in the bushes. God had sent a ram for Abraham to give instead of Isaac.”

Christ Connection: Abraham loved God, and God provided a ram. God loves us and gave His Son, Jesus, to save the world from sin.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

* Bible story picture

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Point to the baby doll and ask the children to tell you what they remember about a baby from the Bible story. Remind children that Isaac grew into a boy. Point to the mountain and ask children to tell you why that was important in the Bible story. Next, point to the altar and ask the children to tell you who built the altar in the Bible story. Finally, point to the lamb and ask children to tell you why it is important to the story.

SAY “ You did a good job of listening and remembering. **ABRAHAM TRUSTED GOD** to keep His promises. God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby boy. His name was Isaac. When God told Abraham to take Isaac to a mountain and to give him to God as an offering, Abraham obeyed. Abraham loved God, and God provided a ram instead. God loves us and gave His Son, Jesus, to save the world from sin. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “Here We Go ‘Round the Mulberry Bush”:

The Lord, the Lord, the Lord is good.
The Lord, the Lord, the Lord is good.
The Lord, the Lord, the Lord is good,
And His love lasts forever.

* “Forever” worship song

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Psalm 100:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage phrase. Distribute a baby rattle or a noise shaker to each preschooler. Lead children in saying the key passage phrase as they play their instruments on each syllable.

SAY “ The LORD is good, and His love lasts forever. God loved Abraham and provided a ram for him to give instead of Isaac. God loves us, and provided His Son, Jesus, to save the world from sin. ”

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God that we can trust Him even when it is hard.



LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 WHAT'S MISSING?



Place five small common items (crayon, beanbag, scissors, marker, play dough) on a tabletop. Show the items to children. Cover the items with a piece of paper and direct children to close their eyes. Without lifting the paper, remove one item and place it on your lap. Prompt children to open their eyes. Lift the paper and invite children to guess the missing item. Replace the item you took and play the game again.

SAY Good job guessing the missing item! Abraham and Sarah were also missing something. They waited a long time for God to give them a family. **God keeps His promises** and gave them a baby boy. Abraham and Sarah named him Isaac. Later, God asked Abraham to give Isaac to God. **ABRAHAM TRUSTED GOD**. As Abraham and Isaac traveled to the mountain, Isaac noticed that the lamb was missing. Isaac asked Abraham, 'Where is the lamb to give to God?' Abraham told Isaac that God would provide the lamb, and God did just that.

2 CARE FOR A BABY

Place the doll in the baby bath or plastic bin. Dampen the washcloth with water. Lay out the additional baby care items. Invite a child to care for the doll. Encourage her to use the cloth to bathe the baby. Show her how to dry the doll and to put on its clothing. Prompt her to wrap the doll in a blanket, or to rock and play with the baby.

SAY **God keeps His promises.** God kept His promise to Abraham and Sarah and gave them a baby boy. They named him Isaac. They had to take care of their baby just like you are taking care of this doll. When Isaac was older, God told Abraham to give Isaac back to God as an offering. **ABRAHAM TRUSTED GOD** and was willing to obey. God provided a ram instead. In the same way, God loves us and gave His Son, Jesus, to save the world from sin.

3 CREATE A MOUNTAIN MURAL

Before the session, cut a large mountain shape from paper. Tape it to a classroom wall. Place a bin of crayons by the mountain. Display the Bible Story Picture Poster near the mountain. Invite children to draw on the mountain. As children draw, point to the Bible Story Picture Poster. Invite the children to tell you what happened on the mountain in today's Bible story.

SAY Thank you for adding color on the mountain. In today's Bible story, God asked Abraham to take his son Isaac to a mountain and give him to God as an offering. **ABRAHAM TRUSTED GOD** and built an altar to give Isaac to God, but a voice from heaven told Abraham to, 'Stop.' God sent a ram for Abraham to give instead. **ABRAHAM TRUSTED GOD**, and God gave him a ram. In the same way, God loves us and gave His Son, Jesus to save the world from sin.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 SIGN THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Open your Bible to Psalm 100:5 and read the key passage phrase aloud from the Key Passage Phrase Marker. Using the “Key Passage Sign Language” printable, help children sign the key passage phrase. Practice signing the key passage phrase several times.

SAY “We signed the key passage phrase with our hands. We learned that God is very good. He gave Abraham and Sarah a son and He provided a ram as an offering instead of Isaac. His love lasts forever. God showed us that when he sent His Son, Jesus to save us from sin.”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Distribute cups and craft sticks. Invite preschoolers to build a bridge by balancing craft sticks between two cups and continuing it from cup to cup to form a bridge. You may preview or show the “Send Indianapolis” missions video.

SAY “Indiana is in the United States. [Point to Indiana on a world map.] Many people live in and around the capital of Indiana, Indianapolis. Missionary Chris McCormick and his family started Reliant Church in Indiana so that others can learn about Jesus. Parke County, Indiana is called “The Covered Bridge Capital of World” because they have 31 covered bridges. Have you ever been on a bridge? [Lead a prayer.]”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “Abraham loved God, and God provided a ram. God loves us and gave His Son, Jesus, to save the world from sin.”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 ROCK A BABY

Sit in the group time area and gently rock a baby doll in your arms. Invite children to come and take turns rocking the doll. After every child has had a turn, guide children to be seated. Ask the children to tell you what they know about babies. After a time, make the statement, “In our Bible story, we will hear about a baby that God promised to give to two special people.”

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Genesis 22. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story.

ABRAHAM AND ISAAC

- Abraham and Sarah were old when God gave them a baby boy. They named him Isaac. Abraham loved Isaac, and he loved God.
- One day, God told Abraham to give Isaac as a gift to God. Abraham trusted God, and Abraham obeyed.
- Abraham and Isaac went up the mountain. Abraham got ready to offer Isaac to God. Then a voice called from heaven and said, “Abraham, stop.”
- God sent a ram to be the gift instead. God knew Abraham loved God most of all.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of “Here We Go ‘Round the Mulberry Bush”:

The Lord, the Lord, the Lord is good.
The Lord, the Lord, the Lord is good.
The Lord, the Lord, the Lord is good,
And His love lasts forever.

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Psalm 100:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Lead children to say the key passage phrase. Hold up a baby doll. Guide the children to repeat the key passage phrase several times with you using a crying baby voice.

5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for Bible stories that help us learn that God loves us, that **God keeps His promises** to us, and that He takes care of us.



BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 WHO HAS THE LAMB?

Invite children to be seated in a large circle. Show preschoolers the toy lamb. Prompt all the children to place their hands behind their backs, to bow their heads, and to close their eyes. Quickly place the lamb in a child's hand. Tell children to open their eyes and to try to guess who has the lamb. Repeat the game several times.

SAY “ Was it fun trying to guess who had the lamb? When Abraham and Isaac went to the mountain to make an offering, Isaac asked the question, ‘Where is the lamb to give to God.’ Abraham told Isaac that God would provide a lamb. **ABRAHAM TRUSTED GOD**, and God did provide when He placed a ram in the bushes. God loves us in the same way and gave His Son, Jesus to save the world from sin. ”

7 BUILD AN ALTAR

Provide the children with cardboard blocks and display the Bible Story Picture Poster next to the blocks. Direct children to look at the Bible Story Picture Poster with you. Point out Abraham and Isaac, the mountain, the ram, and the altar. Invite children to use the blocks to build an altar. As children build, ask them to tell you what is important about each item that you pointed to in the Bible Story Picture Poster.

SAY “ God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby boy. God told Abraham to take Isaac to a mountain to give him to God as an offering. **ABRAHAM TRUSTED GOD** and obeyed Him. He took Isaac up the mountain and built an altar. But before Abraham could offer Isaac, God stopped Abraham and provided a ram for the offering. Abraham showed that he loved God, and God provided a ram. God loves us and gave His Son, Jesus, to save the world from sin. ”

8 TRACE BABY ITEMS

Place paper and baby items on a table and invite the children to be seated. Distribute paper and markers to children. Show children how to lay a baby item on their paper and then how to use a marker to trace around the outline of the item. Encourage children to trace around several items.

SAY “ **ABRAHAM TRUSTED GOD**. God showed His love to Abraham by giving him a son and providing a ram for the offering. **God keeps His promises.** ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church's security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.