

UNIT 2 | SESSION 3

# ABRAHAM AND ISAAC

GENESIS 22



**KEY PASSAGE:** Psalm 100:5

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Abraham was willing to give his only son for God, but God provided another way. God was willing to give His only Son for us. Jesus knew there was no other way to save God's people, so He died and rose again to provide them with forgiveness and life with God forever.

**STORY POINT:** Abraham trusted God even when he did not understand God's plan.



## 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 kids  
and open  
the session



## LEARN

### 25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids  
the story of  
the gospel



## LOVE

### 15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to  
love the God of  
the gospel



## LIVE

### 15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live  
out the mission  
of the gospel



## PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



### WELCOME

#### Activity Page

- ☐ "Ram Match" activity page

#### Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ stuffed lamb

#### Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ jump ropes, 2
- ☐ hula hoops, 2
- ☐ beanbag
- ☐ bucket
- ☐ cones, 2
- ☐ marshmallows, 8



### LOVE

#### Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set



### LIVE

#### Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ notecards, 3 per group
- ☐ dry erase board

#### Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible Story Coloring Page (optional)



### LEARN

#### Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

#### Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

#### Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

#### Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "Abraham and Isaac" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ stuffed lamb (optional)

#### Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 2, Session 3" Questions from Kids video

#### Missions Moment

- ☐ "Send Indianapolis" missions video

#### Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "The Lord Is Good (Psalm 100:5)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ star-shaped cardstock pieces



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** 🗨️ What is your favorite thing you have at home? Would you be able to give it up if you had to? How would you feel without it? 🗨️

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Ram Match” activity page.

**SAY** 🗨️ Today, we will see how God provided a ram for Abraham to sacrifice. We’ll learn that God provided the perfect sacrifice at just the right time. 🗨️

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### ☐ OPTION 1: PROVIDED FOR



Before the session, hide a stuffed lamb or a lamb figure somewhere in the room. Be sure to hide the lamb in a place where kids will not find it. For larger groups, consider hiding additional lambs and forming kids in groups to find each lamb. Tell kids that they have 20 seconds to find the lamb.

Then direct kids to listen to clues you will provide to help them find the lamb. Offer several clues to direct the kids toward the lamb. For example, you may say, “Walk to the door, now move to the right side of the room, walk to the cabinet, etc.” Once kids have found the lamb, congratulate them on trusting your directions.

**SAY** 🗨️ The directions I gave provided the way for you to find the lamb. But you needed to trust my words. Today, we will see how Abraham trusted God and believed that God would provide for him. 🗨️

#### ☐ OPTION 2: TEST YOUR ABILITIES

Before the session, set up five stations around the room to test the skills of the kids. Consider using the following station ideas to test kids’ skills:

- Jumping rope
- Hula hooping
- Tossing a beanbag into a bucket placed 5 feet away
- Jumping the length of 6 feet (Place two cones 6 feet apart.)
- Stacking eight marshmallows on top of one another

Form kids into groups and place each group at a station. Challenge kids to test their skills. Then rotate groups to each station.

**SAY** 🗨️ How do you feel about tests? [Allow responses.] In today’s Bible story, we will see how God tested Abraham. God gave Abraham a test as an opportunity for Abraham to show that he trusted God. We will see that **ABRAHAM TRUSTED GOD EVEN WHEN HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND GOD’S PLAN.** 🗨️

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







## INTRODUCE the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** “Hi, kids! I am so glad you are here! My name is [your name]. Did you bring your Bible with you? If you have a Bible with you, hold it up high. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]

Today, we will learn how **ABRAHAM TRUSTED GOD EVEN WHEN HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND GOD'S PLAN**. [Display the Story Point Poster.] God called Abraham to do something very hard. But God can always be trusted even when we don't understand His plans. We'll see how God provided for Abraham at just the right time. Let's ask God to help us believe His words and trust Him. [Invite kids to pray with you.] ”

\* Praise You Anywhere

\* offering

\* Same God

### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

**SAY** “Let's say our big picture question together: **Does God keep His promises?** What is the answer? [Allow responses.] **Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.**

Today, we will see how God called Abraham to do something that was very hard. But Abraham trusted God and obeyed because He knew that God was faithful to do what He promised. ”

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** “God called Abraham away from his home and told him to go to a new land. We learned how God promised Abraham that He would make Abraham's family into a great nation and that the whole world would be blessed through his family. Today, we will see how God kept His promise to give Abraham a son. ”



LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LEARN the Bible Story



#### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Genesis 22:1-19. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "Abraham and Isaac." Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### ABRAHAM AND ISAAC

**“Many years passed while Abraham and Sarah waited for God’s promise to come true. At the right time, God kept His promise, and Abraham and his wife had a son named Isaac. One day, God tested Abraham so that he could show just how much faith he had in God.**

**God said, “Take your only son Isaac, whom you love, and offer him as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.” Abraham obeyed God.** He got up early, saddled his donkey, and gathered wood for the burnt offering. He set out with Isaac and his servants toward the mountain God had spoken of.

**When they arrived at the mountain, Abraham had Isaac carry the wood, and Abraham carried the knife and the fire. Isaac asked, “My father, where is the animal for the burnt offering?” Abraham said, “God Himself will provide the lamb for the offering, my son.”**

**Abraham was about to sacrifice his son when God stopped him! The angel of the LORD called to Abraham and said, “I see that you fear God and would not even withhold your only son.” Abraham then saw a ram caught in the thicket that God provided for the burnt offering. Abraham named that place, “The LORD Will Provide.”**

**God saw Abraham’s great faith because he was willing to give up his only son. God promised again, “I will bless you and make your family as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. All the nations of the earth will be blessed through your family.”**

**Christ Connection:** Abraham was willing to give his only son for God, but God provided another way. God was willing to give His only Son for us. Jesus knew there was no other way to save God’s people, so He died and rose again to provide them with forgiveness and life with God forever. ”

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Active listening:** Invite kids to cheer when they hear the word “provide” in the story.

**Use a prop:** Hold up a toy lamb when you teach about the lamb God provided for the offering. Tell kids that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

## 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** 🗣️ What promise was Abraham and his wife, Sarah, waiting on? [Allow responses.] Abraham and Sarah waited 25 years for a son. That is a long time to wait and trust that God will do what He promised. But God provided Isaac. **God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.**

Then God tested Abraham to see if Abraham trusted Him. What test did God give Abraham? [Allow responses.] God told Abraham to sacrifice his son on a mountain. **ABRAHAM TRUSTED GOD EVEN WHEN HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND GOD'S PLAN.** He didn't delay but got up early the next day and went with Isaac to the mountain. When Isaac asked where the sacrifice was, what did Abraham say? [Allow responses.] Abraham said that God will provide. Did God provide? [Allow responses.] Yes! At just the right time, God provided a ram for Abraham and Isaac to sacrifice.

Abraham was willing to give his one and only son for God, but God provided another way. Who did God provide to save us from sin? [Allow responses.] God was willing to give His one and only Son for us. Jesus knew there was no other way to save God's people, so He died and rose again to provide them with forgiveness and life with God forever. Abraham believed that God would keep His promise to grow Abraham's family through his son Isaac. We can always trust God to keep His promises because He is faithful. 🗣️

## 3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

**SAY** 🗣️ Just as God kept His promise to Abraham, He has kept His promise to us. He sent a Savior, Jesus, to rescue us from our sins. Jesus took the punishment for our sin, and He died on the cross in our place. When we put our faith in Jesus and follow God, we are forgiven and will live with God forever. 🗣️

\* (Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

## 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

\* Show the "Unit 2, Session 3" Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why did God send His own Son to die on the cross for our sins?
2. Who can you share the good news of the gospel with this week?

## 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

**SAY** 🗣️ Indianapolis is a large city with more than 800,000 people living within the city limits. Yet, many people do not know Jesus as their Savior and Lord. Many residents believe they're 'good enough' and have no need to be saved. Churches like Reliant Church are working to share the gospel with the people of Indianapolis. 🗣️

Play the video. Pray for Reliant Church and other new churches being started in or near Indianapolis. Pray that many will hear the good news of how God has provided the way to be saved through faith in Jesus.



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

#### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session, cut out star shapes from cardstock. Create enough stars to write one or two words from the key passage on each star. Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 100:5 together.

**SAY** 🗣️ God used the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore to show Abraham how numerous his family would become. God was faithful to this promise. At just the right time, God gave Abraham a son. Through faith in Jesus, we become a part of God's family. The Lord is good and His faithful love endures forever. 🙏

Lay the stars in a circle on the floor in order of the key passage. Direct kids to walk the path of the stars while saying the key passage aloud.

Lead kids to sing "The Lord Is Good (Psalm 100:5)." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

#### 7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

**SAY** 🗣️ Dear Father in heaven, we praise You for Your faithfulness to us. Forgive us of our sins and help us trust in Jesus who saves. Help us follow after You obediently like Abraham. Amen. 🙏

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







## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE God by Applying the Story

### 1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Genesis 22. Explain that the name Genesis means *beginning*. Tell kids that Moses, a man we'll learn more about later, wrote the book of Genesis.

Consider pointing out the location of Mount Moriah (H5), where God provided the ram for Abraham, on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 22:16-17 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

**SAY** 🗨️ Abraham obeyed God. He did not try to hold on to the gift of a son God had given him. Instead, **ABRAHAM TRUSTED GOD EVEN WHEN HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND GOD'S PLAN**. His obedience to God's command was done through the faith he had in God's promises.

We trust and obey God because of who God is. We don't have to understand God's ways or have the answers figured out. Because God is good, faithful, loving, forgiving, and holy, we can know that obeying Him will always be what is best for us. 🗨️

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** 🗨️ Abraham believed God would provide. Do you trust God to provide? Why? 🗨️

Answers will vary. Discuss how God can always be trusted to give us what we need because He is always faithful. Tell kids that God knows what we need before we even ask for it. Remind kids that we may not always get everything we want, but God gives us what we need. Most of all, He gave us Jesus to rescue us from our sin.

| **SAY** 🗨️ Will God ask us to do hard things like Abraham? Why? 🗨️

Tell kids that God may ask us to do things that are hard, uncomfortable, or seem like they don't make sense. Discuss how God calls us to follow Jesus and that following Jesus can be hard when we want to do things our way or follow after the ways of the world. Encourage kids to remember that God helps us and equips us to follow Him in obedience.

| **SAY** 🗨️ How do you show you trust and obey God? 🗨️

Share how our obedience to God is a way we show we trust Him. Prompt kids to think about ways that God has called them to obey and reflect on how they might do these things. For example, discuss how God calls kids to obey their parents, to tell the truth, to worship only Him, to not react in anger, etc. Remind kids that no one perfectly obeys God or has perfect faith. Tell kids that only Jesus perfectly obeyed God and trusted God at all times. Encourage kids to remember that because Jesus lived perfectly for us, when we place our faith in Him, we are made right before God.

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE the Mission

#### 1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

##### ☐ OPTION 1: SEARCH IT

Before the session, create a set of three note cards for each group of three or four kids. Write each of the following words on individual note cards: *Lamb*, *died*, *forgiveness*. Then on a dry erase board write the following Bible references: Acts 13:38; 1 Corinthians 15:3; John 1:29.

Form kids into groups of three or four and provide each group with a Bible. Tell kids that the whole Bible points to Jesus. Explain that they will look up verses in the New Testament to see how Jesus is the perfect Lamb God provided to forgive our sins. Lead groups to work together to look up each verse, search the verse for one of the words on their notecards, and then write the Bible reference on their card when they find the correct word in the verse. For example, John 1:29 corresponds to the notecard with the word *Lamb*. Then read the verses aloud together.

**SAY** “ God keeps His promises. At just the right time, He sent Jesus into the world to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Jesus died on the cross and rose again. When we trust in Jesus, we have forgiveness of sins. ”

##### ☐ OPTION 2: PICTURES OF PROVISION



Provide each kid with a piece of paper and markers. Invite kids to draw pictures of ways God has provided for them. Prompt kids to think about gifts from God such as food, clothes, homes, families, friends, etc. Then invite kids to share their pictures with everyone and explain how God has provided for them.

**SAY** “ God always provides what we need. Even when we are going through a hard time or don’t understand everything God is doing in our lives, we can trust God to provide what we need. We can pray to Him and ask Him to give us eyes to see all the ways He has blessed us. **ABRAHAM TRUSTED GOD EVEN WHEN HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND GOD’S PLAN.** And God provided for Abraham, just like He provides for us. Most of all, God provided His Son, Jesus, to be the sacrifice for our sins. ”

#### 2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.