

## LESSON SNAPSHOT

**BOTTOM LINE:**

Sometimes following God means giving something up so we can grow closer to him.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will identify something they may have to give up if they want to follow Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Genesis 22:1-19, Abraham is Tested

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Psalm 119:105 (NIV)*

**SUMMARY:**

Those who travel into deep space must follow orders; even if those orders don't make sense, or are really hard to do. Abraham was willing to sacrifice the one thing he loved most because he trusted God's command completely.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Show us what we need to do to follow you.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*

## MEMORY VERSE

*"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Psalm 119:105 (NIV)*

*"Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me."  
Psalm 119:105 (NirV)*

### **LARGE GROUP:**

As a group, see if the kids can recite the memory verse without seeing it on the screen. Then put the verse on the screen and read it once more together.

### **SMALL GROUP:**

Have the kids sing the memory verse in the style of their favorite pop/rock singer.

## SKIT

### THE ASTRONAUTS: ALL WORTH IT

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

Astronaut suits

Lounge chairs

#### CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 2M

#### CHARACTERS:

*Mick and Dwayne - Astronauts*

*Mick and Dwayne enter and sit in lounge chairs on Mars.*

DWAYNE: Ahhh, what a view.

MICK: Yeah. It really is amazing up here.

DWAYNE: Can you believe we've survived a whole week on Mars?

MICK: I know! Seven days on the surface of another planet.

DWAYNE: You still want an Icee?

MICK: Are you kidding? I'd love an Icee. But you know what? Icees are a small price to pay for visiting another planet.

DWAYNE: That's nothing, Mick. You know what I had to do? I had to give up coffee.

MICK: Oh big deal. I had to give up sodas.

DWAYNE: I had to give up Big Macs.

MICK: I gave up eating at Long John Silvers.

DWAYNE: I had to give up my season tickets to Alabama football. You know I'll never get those back, right?

# SKIT

MICK: I gave up my box at the United Center. Bulls and Blackhawks, man. Never get that back!

DWAYNE: I sold everything I had in my house!

MICK: I gave up a spot on the United States Rhythmic Gymnastics team!

DWAYNE: I broke up with my girlfriend!

MICK: You had a girlfriend? How come I never got to meet her?

DWAYNE: I guess we both gave up a lot for this mission, but look what we got to do instead.

MICK: Yeah. You know there have been many times God asked me to give things up too. It wasn't always easy, but it was always worth it.

DWAYNE: You said it, brother. I never regretted anything I ever gave up for Jesus.

MICK: I didn't always understand it at the time, but it made sense later.

DWAYNE: God will never steer you wrong.

MICK: Never has. Never will.

DWAYNE: Here's to giving up the things that would only hold us back.

MICK: You said it.

*Long pause.*

MICK: You know I haven't been able to pick my nose in almost a year?

DWAYNE: It's not a competition, Mick!

MICK: Well I can't with the space helmet on! I can barely breathe!

## OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

### ITEMS NEEDED:

A bottle of soda

How many of you get a soda every time you go out to eat? Sodas are sweet and bubbly, and they taste so good with a burger and fries, or pizza, or Chinese food, or just about anything.

But there's a bad side to soda, isn't there? Soda is full of sugar, and it has nothing nutritional in it. Soda also usually has caffeine, a drug that can make you hyper and become mildly addicting.

Soda may taste good, but because it has zero nutritional benefit, many people choose to give it up. You'll rarely meet a professional athlete who drinks soda, and many people who simply want to be healthy give it up as well.

It isn't always easy to give up things we love, but sometimes a little sacrifice can be life changing. If God is asking you to give something up today, listen to him. Know that there's a good reason for your sacrifice, and do it, knowing that God will bless you for your sacrifice.

Sacrifice is never easy, but when we give things up for God, it's always worth it!

## LARGE GROUP GAME

### JUST THE ICING

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

A chocolate iced donut

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose one player. The player will have 60 seconds to lick all the chocolate icing off their donut. They must completely remove the icing from the top before time expires without biting the donut to win the game.

#### VARIATION:

Make it a one-on-one competition with another competitor.

#### WHAT'S THE POINT?

Obey God, and give up the things he asks so you can draw closer to him.

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

**BOTTOM LINE:**

Sometimes following God means giving something up so we can grow closer to him.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will identify something they may have to give up if they want to follow Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Genesis 22:1-19, Abraham is Tested

**INTRO:**

It would be amazing to travel to Mars one day. Think how incredible it would be to set foot on a world no human has ever visited. Think how fantastic it would be to see the mountains of Mars, to lift rocks from the red planet's surface, and to study things men have only seen in photos.

Seeing Mars in person would be an unforgettable experience, but it's an experience that comes at a great price. Astronauts have to give up many, many things we take for granted just to qualify for a space mission. They spend long hours training, longer than most of your moms and dads normally work. They eat restrictive diets to make sure they are in the best physical shape possible. They spend hours learning how to operate their ship, how to do their experiments in space, and just staying physically fit.

Once the astronauts reach space, they have to make even more sacrifices. They can't eat normal food in space, so they are forced to eat freeze-dried food out of plastic packets, specially made for them. There's no McDonalds in space, so they get no breaks from the astronaut food they brought for the trip.

Astronauts also give up time with their families. On a mission to Mars, astronauts would give up a minimum of two years away from their homes and loved ones! Can you imagine being trapped in a tiny capsule for two years, missing all those holidays and birthdays, only rarely getting a chance to see or talk to someone on a video screen?

Astronauts make a lot of sacrifices, but to them, these sacrifices are a price they are willing to pay. They are happy to follow orders, no matter how strange, and to give up the things that NASA tells them. They do it because they want to see the galaxy up close and explore places never seen before.

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

Sometimes God asks us to make sacrifices too. He asks us to do things we do not understand. But like the astronauts following orders in the space program, there's a reason for everything that God asks us to do.

## **READ GENESIS 22:1-19**

### **MAIN POINT:**

If you were here last week, you know Abraham was an old man when he had his son Isaac. God promised Abraham when he was already past 80 to make him a father. Isaac was a miracle!

So why did God tell Abraham to sacrifice his son? Because God wanted to test Abraham's faith. He wanted to know that Abraham would follow his orders, no matter what. God never wanted to take Isaac from Abraham, but he wanted to be sure that he, God, was first in Abraham's heart.

Abraham passed the test, and he set an example for us. If God asks you to do something that seems crazy, will you do it? Will you give up something you love, something important to you, so that you can draw closer to God?

### **DRIVE IT HOME:**

Part of being a Christian and growing in Christ is learning to let go of the things of this world. As people living in a sinful world, we are taught that the most important things in this world are money, power, good jobs, influence, and fame.

None of these things matter to God. What matters to God is that we love him and obey him. God asks us to give up some of our money every week to the church, to fund its ministry and to show God that we know our money belongs to him. He wants us to give up some of our free time to serve others and just to pray so that we can be a blessing to others. He wants us to give up things that would take us away from following Jesus, removing anything that would be an obstacle to growing in Christ.

Some of the things God asks us to give up are sins. If we truly love Jesus, we will give up the sins that Jesus died for. Sin not only keeps us from drawing closer to Jesus, it ruins our witness to the world. When we walk away from sin, we show Jesus and the people around us that our faith is real.

Is God asking you to give something up today? Is God nudging you to lay something at his feet so that you can grow closer? Whatever it is God is asking you to give up, it's not worth keeping. We need to obey orders, like the astronauts listening to mission control. We need to follow God's lead, no matter how strange it seems. We need to give up anything that keeps us back from God, knowing that when we make a sacrifice, God will bless us in return.



# LARGE GROUP LESSON

## **CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Show us what we need to do to follow you.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

### ICEBREAKER:

What is one food, drink, or candy you love that you know you probably need to give up or consume less than you do?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

**Psalm 119:105**

Have the kids sing the memory verse in the style of their favorite pop/rock singer.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a variation on Simon Says, but call it, "Mission Control Says." Test your skill at following directions.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**Read Genesis 22:1-19**

What did God ask Abraham to do? Where did Abraham take Isaac?

What did Abraham say to Isaac when Isaac asked about the sacrifice?

Why did God test Abraham?

Can you think of something you need to give up today so you can follow Jesus?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Help us to make the sacrifices that you ask so that we can draw closer to you.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

### ICEBREAKER:

What is one food, drink, or candy you love that you know you probably need to give up or consume less than you do?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

**Psalms 119:105**

Have the kids sing the memory verse in the style of their favorite pop/rock singer.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a variation on Simon Says, but call it, "Mission Control Says." Test your skill at following directions.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**Read Genesis 22:1-19**

How did God test Abraham's faith?

Why did God want to test Abraham?

What are some things that God asks people to give up?

Why is it important to obey God, no matter what?

Can you think of something you need to give up today so you can follow Jesus?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Help us to make the sacrifices that you ask so that we can draw closer to you.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

## POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

### TRUE OR FALSE

God told Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac.

TRUE

Abraham refused to listen to God's command.

FALSE

Abraham told Isaac that God would provide the lamb for their sacrifice.

TRUE

An angel stopped Abraham from killing Isaac after Abraham proved his faith.

TRUE

God will never ask us to give up anything for him.

FALSE

# MAKE IT STICK

## 5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

### THIS WEEK'S LESSON: BY YOUR COMMAND



#### IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Those who travel into deep space must follow orders; even if those orders don't make sense, or are really hard to do. Abraham was willing to sacrifice the one thing he loved most because he trusted God's command completely. Genesis 22:1-19, Abraham is Tested



#### HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask the kids if there are things you've made them give up that they miss. Ask if they understand why they had to give those things up. Ask them why God asks us to give up things sometimes.



#### AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why did God ask Abraham to sacrifice his son?
- What happened when Abraham prepared to sacrifice Isaac?
- Is there something you've decided to give up so you can draw closer to Jesus?



#### AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

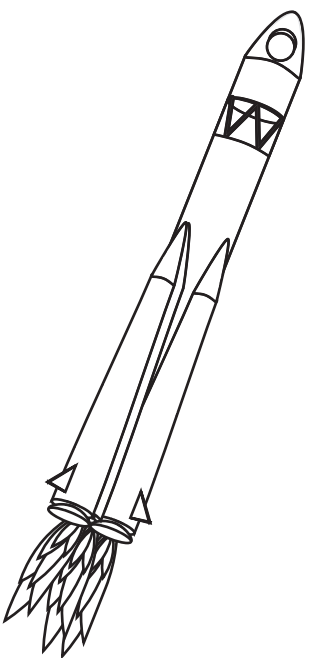
*"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Psalm 119:105 (NIV)*



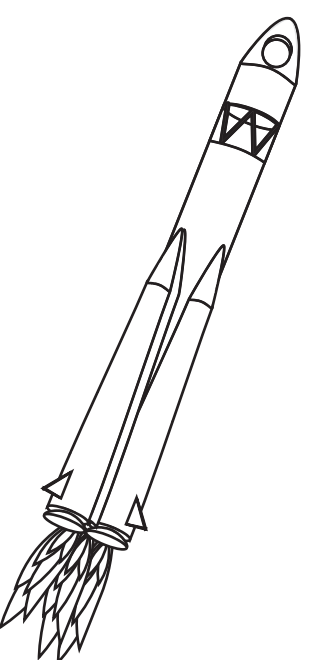
#### PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

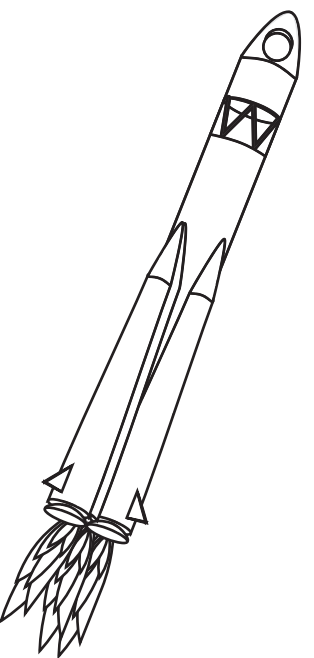
Are there things in your life holding you back from a closer walk with Jesus? Give them up to God, and ask him to take them away. Do not let anything hinder your walk with Christ.



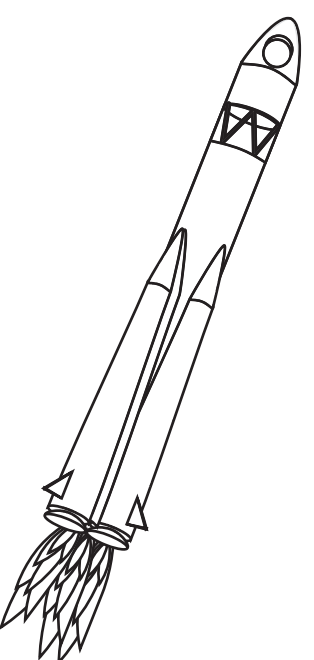
"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."  
- Psalm 119:105 (NIV)



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## CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids write “God” on the left side of a page. Have them draw themselves on the right side. Then have them draw something holding them back from God between them. Fold the page together and tape it so that what's between them and God disappears and they are now close to God, showing what can happen if you give up the things that are keeping you from God.