

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Genesis

ABRAHAM'S FAITH TESTED

Genesis 22

Elementary Lesson

Year One, Quarter One, Lesson Ten

[0100]

AIM: to teach my class that we must have faith to please God

OBJECTS TO HAVE: A picture of a lamb
The word "sacrifice" printed on a card
A picture of a mountain
A picture of a donkey
A picture of an altar
A picture of wood (or pieces of wood)
A picture of fire
A picture of a knife
Your Bible

POINT OF CONTACT: Who can tell me what animal this is? That's right, it's a **lamb**. What noise does a **lamb** make? Let's all make that sound together.

Did you know that before Jesus died on the cross, the **lamb** was a very, very important animal? The reason it was so important is that the **lamb** is the animal that God required man to offer as a *sacrifice*. You see, from the time that man first sinned to the time that Jesus died on the cross, there were 4000 years. God had set the exact time that Jesus should die on the cross. But until the time came for Jesus to die on the cross, how could God forgive man's sin? The answer is that God required men to offer a *sacrifice*. When a man offered a sacrifice, he was showing God that he knew that he was a sinner, that he knew that he deserved to be punished for his sins, and that he was trusting God to pay for and forgive his sins. God commanded every man to offer a **lamb** as a sacrifice, until Jesus came and died for all of the sins of the world.

How did a man offer a sacrifice? First, he would make an altar. Then he would set the firewood upon the altar. Next, he would put the **lamb** on the altar, and he would use his knife to kill the **lamb**. Then after the **lamb** was dead he would light the firewood, and the body of the dead **lamb** would be burned up. This was called offering a burnt-offering sacrifice. It was what God commanded man to do because of sin. Man's sin is what made that sacrifice necessary.

One time God commanded **one** man to offer **one** sacrifice that was different from any sacrifice that anyone else had ever had to offer. Let me tell you what happened.

STORY: I told you two Sundays ago about a man named Abraham. Abraham was a very wealthy man. He was 75 years old when God came to him and told him to leave where he was living, to move to a strange land. I told you how Abraham packed up and left immediately, obeying exactly what God had told him to do. God had tested Abraham's faith, and Abraham had passed the test.

Last week I told you how God had promised Abraham and his wife Sarah that they were going to have a son. From that son would come a great nation. But God did not tell Abraham that he would have to wait 25 years before that son would be born. Abraham followed God patiently for those 25 years, knowing that God would keep His Word. And finally, Abraham received the fulfillment of that promise—God gave Abraham a baby boy. Abraham and Sarah named their boy *Isaac*. God had again tested Abraham's faith, and again Abraham had passed the test.

But now would come the toughest test of all. Isaac had grown up into a young man. Isaac was about 15 years old when God spoke to Abraham again. This time God said, “Take your son to Mount Moriah, and offer him there as a sacrifice, the same way that you would offer a lamb.”

Why would God ask Abraham to do such a thing? How could God ask Abraham to kill his own son, especially after God had put Abraham through so much in giving him that son?

But Abraham did not ask “Why?” Just like all the other times, Abraham just said, “Yes sir, Lord,” and obeyed God’s command. He took a donkey, and loaded it up with the supplies. Abraham took two servants with him, and he took his only son, Isaac. It took them three days to journey to Mount Moriah. When they got there, Abraham said to his servants, “You stay here.” Then he took the wood, the knife, and some fire, and told Isaac, “Come with me.” (You see, Isaac did not know what God had commanded his father to do.)

They walked slowly up the mountain, and as they walked, Isaac asked his father, “You have the wood, the fire, and the knife...but where is the lamb?”

Abraham answered, “My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering.”

Finally they came to the place where God had commanded them to go. Abraham made the altar, and then he commanded Isaac to lie down. Abraham took out his knife and raised it in the air to kill his own son.

All of a sudden Abraham heard a voice from heaven say, “ABRAHAM! ABRAHAM!” Abraham stopped. God said, “You don’t have to kill your son. I just wanted to see if you trusted me. And now I know that you trust me with all of your heart, because you have not held back the son that is the most precious thing in the world to you.”

Then God said, “Abraham, look over in the bushes and you will see a ram (a ram is a male sheep) caught in the bushes. Take him and offer him as your sacrifice.” Abraham took that ram and offered him on the altar.

Why would God put Abraham through a test like that? It is because God needs to know if we trust Him. If we can prove to God that we trust Him, we will have the opportunity to be used of God in a big way.

The Bible commands us to do many things. Many of the things that we are commanded to do we may not understand. But if we trust God, we will obey Him whether we understand or not.

For example, God commands children to obey your parents. Why does God command you to obey your parents?

You may not understand why, but you should trust God and obey Him. **That shows God that you have faith.**

God commands us to be baptized after we are saved. Why does God tell us to do this? You may not understand why, but you should trust God and obey Him. **That shows God that you have faith.**

God commands us to go to church every Sunday. Why does God tell us to go to church every Sunday? You may not understand why, but you should trust God and obey Him. **That shows God that you have faith.**

God commands us to read the Bible every day. Why does God command you to read your Bible every day? You may not understand why, but you should trust God and obey Him. **That shows God that you have faith.**

God commands us to pray every day. Why does God command us to pray every day? You may not understand why, but you should trust God and obey Him. **That shows God that you have faith.**

God commands us to tell other people about Jesus. Why does God command us to tell other people about Jesus? You may not understand why, but you should trust God and obey Him. **That shows God that you have faith.**

God commands us to separate ourselves from sin. Why does God command us to separate ourselves from sin? You may not understand why, but you should trust God and obey Him. **That shows God that you have faith.**

When you don’t know what to do, just do right. Right never changes. It is always exactly what God said in His Word. When you obey God, you pass the test, because you **show God that you have faith.**

Let’s learn our memory verse. **Hebrews 11:6 – But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

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Teen and Adult Lesson

Year One, Quarter One, Lesson Ten

[0100]

Teacher, choose one of the following truths to expand upon in teaching this portion of Scripture to your teen/adult class. Teach and apply the truth that you choose using statements and illustrations that are most helpful and applicable to your students.

- I. GOD MUST TEST OUR FAITH TO ESTABLISH THAT WE DO IN FACT TRUST HIM. I Peter 1:7. Testing is a special opportunity to prove what is in our hearts. Yes, an Omniscient God knows what is in our hearts; but testing establishes that our faith is genuine, proving it to ourselves, to those who can learn from our example, and to Satan, the accuser of the brethren.
- II. OBEDIENCE IS WHAT PASSES THE TEST. When we obey, not holding anything back from God, we show God that we trust Him. Genesis 22:12. Trials and troubles are the tests; our faith is what is being tested; obedience is what passes the test.
- III. WE MUST DIE TO OUR DREAMS BEFORE GOD CAN BLESS THEM. Isaac was everything that Abraham lived for, not only because he was his son, but also because he represented God's great purpose for Abraham's life. In offering Isaac, Abraham was giving his dreams to God. Before you will see God do anything great in your life, you will have to come to the place where it seems that all of your dreams and aspirations have died.
- IV. GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS NEVER CONTRADICT HIS PURPOSE. Hebrews 11:17-19. God had promised to make of Abraham a great nation. Hebrews is telling us that Abraham's faith in that promise was so strong that he knew that, even if Abraham killed his son, God would have to raise him up to keep His Word. And since God nearly had to "raise the dead" to give him a son, Abraham knew He could raise Isaac up, if necessary. God may ask you to do something that seems out of line with His purpose for your life; but faith requires you to follow His orders, and trust Him to take care of the outcome.
- V. GOD KNOWS THE PAIN OF SACRIFICE. God told Abraham to offer his only begotten son, but then stopped him from having to go through with it. But God gave His only begotten Son as a sacrifice for us, and He did go through with it. When God asks you to trust Him with some sacrifice in your life, your sacrifice is never as great as the sacrifice that He made for you in sending Jesus to die on Calvary.

Abraham's Faith Tested

Genesis 22:1-19

[0100]

God Instructs Abraham to Sacrifice His Only Son

I. GENESIS 22:1-2 God's Instructions

22:1 God called and Abraham answered

22:2 God instructs Abraham to sacrifice his most precious possession

II. GENESIS 22:3-6 Abraham's Obedience

22:3 Abraham obeys without discussion

22:4 Abraham's crew arrives at the location

22:5-6 Abraham and Isaac go alone, prepared to obey God's instructions

III. GENESIS 22:7-10 Abraham's Faith

22:7-8 Abraham answers Isaac's questions with great faith

22:9-10 Abraham's obedience takes him right to the edge of hardship

IV. GENESIS 22:11-19 God's Intervention

22:11-12 The LORD stops Abraham from killing his son

22:13 The LORD provides a ram for Abraham to offer

22:14 Abraham's faith in God is increased

22:15-19 God confirms His covenant with Abraham

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Abraham's Faith Tested

GENESIS 22

[0010]

Unscramble the key words and phrases from the Scripture reference
and from today's Bible lesson.

HARMAAB _____

AARSH _____

CASIA _____

IROAHM _____

FORINGEF _____

DOWO _____

IFER _____

IFENK _____

AMR _____

GLANE _____

*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God
must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

HEBREWS 11:6

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GENESIS 22
[0010]

The answers to today's puzzle

HARMAAB A B R A H A M

AARSH S A R A H

CASIA I S A A C

IROAHM M O R I A H

FORINGEF O F F E R I N G

DOWO W O O D

IFER F I R E

IFENK K N I F E

AMR R A M

GLANE A N G E L