

Lesson 10: Abraham is Tested

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Genesis Chapter 22: Abraham is tested
- 2) Learn that Abraham's faith was not just a belief alone - he was willing to act on his faith.
- 3) Do activities that show Abraham's faith and Isaac's obedience.
- 4) Look at what the New Testament says about Abraham's faith.

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Abraham Tested Activity Sheet – one per student

Optional:

- Storybook with pictures or visual aids to show kids (if available)

Snack:

- Star shaped cheese or other star shaped snack enough per child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Juice or water and cup one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance. Once children are seated say:

What did we study last week? We studied that Hagar and Ishmael were sent away, Isaac was born and we reviewed the life of Abraham.

This week we will see that God tests Abraham to see if Abraham would be faithful and follow God no matter what....and he did!

2) Abraham Tested

10-15 minutes

Optional: if you have a book with pictures, visual aids or flannel characters, etc.; you can use those as visuals while reading from the Bible.

Ask children to get their Bibles and turn to **Genesis 22**. Read **Genesis 22:1-19**.

Ask the following questions:

If God (or your mom or your dad) asks you to do something difficult, meaning something you could actually do, but it would be very hard, would you do it? Why? Let students respond – the idea is that even though it is difficult if we trust God (and our parents) we should be able to do what He and they say. Keeping in mind that this is true as long as our parents ask us to do Godly things that God agrees with.

What did God tell Abraham to do in our story? Was it easy or difficult? Told him to sacrifice his son, it was very difficult to do emotionally. Sacrifice your son.

How did Abraham respond? He obeyed God

Was it easy? No

How do you think Abraham felt? He was probably very sad– but he believed God would raise Isaac from the dead.

Have students turn to **Hebrews 11:17-19**. Read it aloud.

What does this verse say Abraham thought? That Isaac would be raised from the dead, for he knew the promise of descendants was through Isaac – Abraham never doubted God.

What is loyalty? Complete devotion, faithfulness or staying by someone no matter how difficult things get.

How did Abraham show his loyalty to God in the story? He was willing to obey, even if it meant involving his son Isaac.

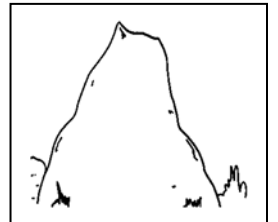
How can you be loyal to God? Examples may be following what God says in the Bible, continually praying to God, trusting He will help you when faced with a difficult issue, and/or going to worship God every Sunday.

Pick a new way you can be loyal to God and practice it this week!

Allow for questions, state that you will come back next week with answers if the questions are too big. Address the person next week if appropriate. Then, move on to the next activity.

3) Abraham and Isaac on the Mountain Activity Sheet 15-20 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each student along with pencil crayons. Read the directions aloud and have students write in the right answers as they follow along and you do this as a Class. Students can write an “S” for Strength and “W” for Weakness. Have the kids draw Isaac and Abraham by the altar after God took care of the sacrifice, show the ram in the bush.



4) Optional: More Questions about Abraham 10 minutes

Why was it unusual for Abraham and Sarah to have a baby? Because they were past the age of being able to have children.

Why did God make them wait so long for the child He had promised? Answers may vary, but he wanted them to learn patience and trust and have faith that God would provide even at the ages of 90 and a 100! To show us later on that even after many years – God keeps His promises.

Why did God tell Abraham to offer Isaac up to Him? To show Abraham’s faith, not just hear that Abraham believes but to have Abraham prove that he believes in everything God says or asks of him.

Why was Abraham able to do what God asked of him? Because he had faith in God!

Anyone else we know that was willing to offer their Son as a sacrifice? God.

Did God go through with it? Yes

Why? So we can all be saved thanks to Jesus being willing to obey God. God loves us so much He gave His only Son! He gave up everything for us – we need to be willing to give up things for God!

Did Jesus obey God? Yes.

Have students turn to **John 3:16** and read it aloud.

We can thank God that He was willing to give up His Son so we can have eternal life with both Jesus and God in heaven if we obey and have faith like Abraham.

5) Memory Verse**1-2 minutes**

Recite the Memory Verse **Genesis 15:6** as a group. You can choose from one of the following:
Abraham believed God, and He (God) accounted it to him for righteousness. (NKJV)
Abram believed the Lord, and He (God) credited it to him as righteousness. (NIV)

6) Optional: God Says Game**10-15 minutes**

Have students line up facing you. Tell them **“we are going to play a version of “Simon Says”, only we are going to be like Abraham and we are going to do what God says. Every time I tell you to do an action you can do it if I say “God says” first; if I don’t say that then DON’T DO IT! If you do an action when I didn’t say “God says” first, then you will be out of the game. Last person in the game wins.”**

Ideas: pat your head, rub your tummy, stomp your feet, follow me, turn around, shake your leg, etc. If you have time, let the winner of the last game, be the leader for the next game.

7) Optional – Snack: Cheese cut in Star Shapes or other star shaped snack 5 minutes

Hand out star shaped snacks to each child along with a glass of water or juice to each child. Explain that, **“When we studied before we learned that God promised to make Abraham’s descendants too numerous to count, more than the stars in the sky. These snacks are to remind us of how we are each a descendant of Abraham because we too believe in God and have faith in God like Abraham!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions while snacking!

8) Optional – Songs**5 minutes**

Have children sing songs with you. Some examples:

- 1) **Old Testament Books of the Bible – Sung to the Alphabet song**
- 2) **Twinkle, Twinkle – Abraham’s family son** – see lyrics from lesson 5
- 3) **Father Abraham Song with Actions** – see lyrics from lesson 3.

9) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Remember to also ask God for help in studying the Old Testament to realize and learn how important it is in showing us and everyone that God had a plan with Jesus from the beginning and that the Old Testament points to Christ all the way through. Thank God for sending his Son to die on the cross so that we could have eternal life with them in heaven one day. Thank God for showing us examples of Godly people in the Bible like Abraham and Isaac so we can learn patience, faith, obedience, and love for God too!