

Lesson #4-2

ABRAHAM AND ISAAC

Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14



Key Verse:

Abraham said, “[God] will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.”
Genesis 22:8

The Point:

God can provide even in impossible situations.



INTRODUCTION

Today we move forward in the origin stories of Israel to meet Abram through what can be a disturbing, difficult story. We also learn of the start of the Israelite practice of worship by animal sacrifice as opposed to the Canaanite practice of worship by human sacrifice. God favors Abram, a faithful man, and promises that he would become the father of a nation. We hear this promise several times in the Book of Genesis. Finally, when Abram was nearly one hundred years old, God followed through on that promise, and his wife Sarai gave birth to a son. The two parents of a nation become known as Abraham and Sarah, and their son: Isaac. After having to deal with a heart-breaking time of barrenness and waiting, Abraham was then tested, as God asked him to offer his son as a burnt

sacrifice. Abraham obeyed, taking his son to the place God had pointed out to him, and preparing to kill him. An angel intervened, providing a ram to take the place of Isaac as the burnt offering. Abraham rejoiced in the Lord's provision.

The Point

God can provide even in impossible situations.

Abraham had followed God's command, and Isaac had followed his father in trust. Out in the wilderness, there seemed to be no other path, but God provided a ram for the sacrifice, and Isaac was saved. We sometimes find ourselves in situations in which we cannot imagine a positive outcome, but God has a bigger picture of what is possible, and can intervene to bless us.

ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE

ACTIVITIES

SUPPLIES

INTRODUCTION

TRAVELING PROVISIONS

Discuss what to pack for traveling.

10 MIN. † None

LEARNING THE STORY

GOD PROVIDES FOR ABRAHAM

Consider the story from different perspectives.

15 MIN. † Bibles

ACTIVITIES

BLESSING BOUQUET

Create a bouquet for someone who blesses us.

15 MIN. † Activity Sheet #4-2.A
 † Square sheets of paper of various colors or origami paper
 † Staplers
 † Double-sided tape
 † Scissors
 † Chenille craft stems
 † Markers

COULD HAVE BEEN

Imagine a different story.

10 MIN. † Activity Sheet #4-2.B
 † Pencils

PRAYER



GOD'S STORY @ HOME

INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES)

TRAVELING PROVISIONS

Discuss what to pack for traveling.

Supplies:

† None

Instructions:

1. **When have we been on a long trip? Where did we go?** Allow time for responses.
2. **Whether or not you have ever been on a long trip, it is important to plan ahead to bring everything you would need. Take turns sharing what you would bring with you on a long trip. Which is the most important item to have with you?**
3. **The characters in our story today take a long journey, but it seems as though they do not have everything with them. But God provides just what they need.**

LEARNING THE STORY (15 MINUTES)

GOD PROVIDES FOR ABRAHAM

Consider the story from different perspectives.

Supplies:

† Bibles

Instruction:

1. Sometimes blessings come in ways we do not expect and even in situations in which we think it would be impossible to find a blessing. Our story today features Abraham, a man favored by God, and Isaac, Abraham's son. The Lord had promised Abraham and his wife Sarah that they would be the ancestors of an entire nation, but as they grew older and older, they began to wonder if that promise would ever be fulfilled. Finally, when Abraham was nearly 100 and Sarah 90, their son Isaac was born. What an unexpected blessing!
2. Today's story takes place after Isaac had grown older. As you listen to the story, you will listen to it with a particular character in mind. You are to put yourself in the shoes of that character and imagine how you would have felt if you were that character. Decide who will fulfill each of these roles:
 - Reader (read the text to the character listeners)
 - Abraham
 - Isaac
 - God
 - Sarah (Isaac's mother)
 - The ram (at the end of the story)
3. Read the stories, and afterward have each "character" answer the following questions from their point of view. The reader can answer as an observer, or can just listen to everyone else.
 - What were you thinking while Abraham and Isaac walked to the place God showed? What did you wonder?
 - Why do you think God chose Abraham and Isaac?
 - What is the blessing in this situation?
 - Abraham renamed the place of the sacrifice "the Lord provides". What would you have named it?
 - Why do you think God tested Abraham this way?
 - Have you ever had a blessing come out of a difficult experience?
 - In what ways does God provide for you?

ACTIVITY (15 MINUTES)

BLESSING BOUQUET

Create a bouquet for someone who blesses us.

Supplies

- † Activity Sheet #4-2.A
- † Square sheets of paper of various colors or origami paper
- † Staplers
- † Double-sided tape
- † Scissors
- † Chenille craft stems
- † Markers

Preparation

1. Set out the above materials. Each flower requires two pieces of paper, plus sheets for the center circles, so consider how many flowers you would like each person to make when setting up.
2. Create a sample flower or two to display.
3. Make copies of the instructions on Activity Sheet #4-2.A.

Instructions

1. **If you remember from last week, our big theme for this unit is that God Provides Blessings. Last week, we celebrated the blessings that are around us in nature. This week, we will focus on a person who has been a blessing to each of us.**
2. **Can you think of someone who has blessed you? A special friend, relative, teacher, role model, or helper? How have they blessed you? Today you will make a gift for that person that tells them how they have blessed you.**
3. **We have a number of materials and instructions. You will make a flower (or more than one) for the person you are thinking of, and will write the way that they have blessed you on the center circle. As you make flowers, talk to each other about the person you are creating for. Share how they have blessed you. Then, talk about how you plan to give the flower or flowers to them in the near future.**

ACTIVITY (10 MINUTES)

COULD HAVE BEEN (10 MINUTES)

Imagine a different story.

Supplies:

- † Activity Sheet #4-2.B
- † Pencils

Preparation:

1. Make one copy of Activity Sheet #4-2.B for each person.

Instructions:

1. **If Abraham had not trusted God, things could have gone very differently. If Isaac had not trusted Abraham, his father, things could have gone very differently. Let's imagine what would have happened if things did go differently.**
2. Hand out Activity Sheets and pencils.
3. **Work together to fill in the Bible stories on your Activity Sheet. Imagine different responses Abraham could have made to God and Isaac to Abraham. How would the outcome have been different?**

PRAYER

Encourage everyone to hold hands in a circle. Begin and end the prayer, but leave enough silence in the middle for people to participate.

Everyone, turn to the person next to you and tell that person how you are going to present your flower to the person who blesses you.

When conversations finish, say the following prayer.

Now, let's pray together:

Loving God, thank you for blessing Abraham and Isaac, and for continuing to bless us all today. Thank you for the people who have been blessings to us. Invite each person to say the names of the people who have blessed them. Please inspire us to be blessings to all of those around us this week. Amen.

BLESSING BOUQUET

Create a bouquet for someone who blesses us.

Flower Creation Instructions:

1. Choose two sheets of square paper.
2. Fold each sheet in half, then in half again, and a third time.
3. Unfold and then accordion fold, using the creases as guidelines.
4. Staple the two accordion folded sheets together in the middle.
5. Trim the ends to be either rounded or pointed.
6. Use the double-sided tape to tape together the four open sides, forming the flower.
7. Cut out a circle from a different color paper.
8. Write on the circle the way in which your person has blessed you.
9. Tape the circle to the center of the flower.
10. Tape the chenille craft stems to the back of the flower.

COULD HAVE BEEN

Imagine a different story.

After these things God tested Abraham. God said to him, "Abraham!"

And Abraham said, "_____."

God said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So

Abraham rose early in the morning, and _____.

On the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you."

Abraham took _____.

So the two of them _____.

Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son."

He said, "_____."

Abraham said, "_____."

So the two of them _____.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham _____.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

He said, "_____."

And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns.

Abraham went and _____.

So Abraham called that place _____.