

The Big Story Lesson #4 The Lord Provides

Activity Option #1: Grab a cookie sheet. Write 12-13 different words of small, common household items on sticky notes and place them on the tray. Give each person 20 seconds to look at the tray and memorize as many as they can. Then, hide the tray and have each person write down as many words as they can remember. Then, place 12-13 small, physical, household items on the tray and do the same 20 seconds looking, and write down everything you can remember

Debrief Questions:

- Who remembered more with words? Who remembered more with visuals?
- Can you think of a sermon you've heard that really stuck out to you? What was it about? Did they use any visuals or object lessons?

As our Creator, God knows that our brains hold onto experiences and pictures much longer and more meaningfully than logical words and explanations. Today, we are going to stay with Abraham and take a look at a vivid picture that God gives us of his future plan for blessing "all the peoples on earth"

Activity Option #2: I Believe

(15min-1hr depending on how much you'd like to engage with it)

1. In advance, cut up sheets of blank paper into quarter sheet "notes." At the top of each note write the words, "I believe."
2. Give each participant, children AND adults, three blank notes and ask them to write down one thing on each note that they believe about God or the Bible. Collect the notes and take time to discuss each note.

** As you engage.....Be sure to have a Bible and concordance handy in case you want to look something up.

This should not be a heavy-handed activity but a time for kids to SAFELY share things they believe. This activity will likely bring up random ideas and thoughts about God. Make sure to clarify beliefs that do NOT line up with scripture. If you are able, discern the origin of unbiblical thinking.

Note: From the biblical standpoint, there are lots of WRONG ideas floating around in the world. But adults should never ridicule a child or immature believer for voicing something that is wrong. Rather, affirm that none of us can know the RIGHT until we examine God's truth. Perhaps share a story of something that you wrongly believed until God's word showed you otherwise.

Grab your Bibles

Genesis 22

Read Genesis 22:2

"Whom you love"- *Ahab* (aw-have)- To love, desire, delight

This is the first time this Hebrew word love appears in the Bible. It is interesting that God chooses this particular moment to teach us about delighting love-as in the deep feelings a father has for his only Son.

Can you think of another Father in the Bible who has a deep delighted love for his only Son? (Read Matthew 3:17 for a hint)

Read Genesis 22:3-6

(Vs 5) What did Abraham tell the servant that he and Isaac would do on the mountain?

(Vs 6) What do you think is the significance of the wood in this text? (Compare John 19:16-18)

Read Genesis 22:7-14

Often “thickets” were full of thorn bushes and according to Genesis 3:17-18 thorns are evidence of sin’s curse on earth. Horns are often a symbol for power, or there is a description “the horn of salvation” (Luke 1:68-69)

What do you think the significance of the thorns wrapped around the Ram’s head could be? (Compare Matthew 27:27-29)

In verse 14 Abraham called this place “The Lord will Provide” What are some things God has provided for you today?

*Not only does God provide what we need day to day, but through this story, we learn that from the very beginning God provided someone to take our place for the consequences of our sin.
Not only did Jesus die FOR us, he also died INSTEAD of us.*

After this experience God renews his covenant with Abraham. He promises to bless him and to give him an innumerable amount of descendants.

God’s Promise

Genesis 22:15-18

“Because you have done this and have not withheld your son, our only son, I will surely _____ you and make your descendants as numerous as the _____ in the sky and as the _____ on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the _____ of their enemies, and through your offspring _____ on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me”

Big Questions

How does this story fit into the greater story of the Bible? Why do you think it was important for God to include this for future believers?

In 22:8 Abraham tells Isaac that “God himself will provide the lamb” How has God provided a “lamb” for you? And for the entire world? (John 1:29)

According to Hebrews 11:19, what did Abraham believe that God would do, if in fact he was called to carry out the sacrifice of his son, Isaac?

According to Romans 4:21, what did Abraham believe about God?

Think of one of God's promises. On a scale of 1-10, how confident are you that God will come through with that promise?

Fill out the box on the Right. →→→→→→→→

Parallels between Isaac and Jesus

1. Both fulfilled **promises**:

Isaac was the long-promised son to Abraham (*Genesis 12:3*)

Jesus was the long-promised Messiah and Son of God (*Genesis 3:15; 13:3, John 1:1-12*)

2. Both were the **only son** of their father:

God said that Isaac was "Your son, your only son, whom you live..." to Abraham (*Genesis 22: 2*)

God said "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased!" (*Matthew 3:16, 17*).

3. Both had a **miraculous birth**:

Isaac was born to parents who were very old - *Genesis 18:13*.

Jesus was born of a virgin, Mary, and conceived by the Holy Spirit - *Luke 1:34-35*.

4. Both were **undeserving** of their sacrificial death - *Genesis 22:2, Luke 23:41*.

5. Both were **loved** by their fathers (*Genesis 22:2; Matthew 3:16, 17*).

6. Both had a **three-day** experience:

Isaac had a 3-day hike to Mt. Moriah.

Jesus had 3 days from the cross to the grave to the resurrection.

7. Both carried their own **wood**:

Isaac carried the wood for his own sacrifice (*Genesis 22:6*).

Jesus carried the crossbeam of his cross (*John 19:17*).

8. Both **submitted** to their father:

Isaac willingly laid down his life, submitting to his father (*Genesis 22:9*).

Jesus submitted to his Father's will and laid down his life for our sin (*Luke 22:42, Romans 5:8*).

9. Both were brought **back from the dead**:

Isaac was "brought back" figuratively (*Genesis 22:12*) by the faith of Abraham.

Jesus rose from the dead 3 days after he was crucified (*Matthew 28:6-7*)

THE JESUS CONNECTION

There are so many connections between this story and the story of Jesus! Try listing as many as you can below (You can even draw it if you'd like).

*See the end of the lesson for the list we came up with!