

# Isaac's Birth/Abraham Offers Isaac

Genesis 21:1-7; 22:1-19



## The Story

God had promised Abraham not just one child but many children. Abraham and Sarah were getting very old and still they had no baby. God wanted to make Abraham's and

Sarah's faith stronger. He wanted them to learn to trust only in Him.

The Lord came to Sarah and did something wonderful for Sarah, just as He had said He



would. He gave Sarah and Abraham a baby boy when they were very old. Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90 when they had their baby. This was exactly the time God wanted the baby to be born. Abraham called his new baby boy, Isaac. And Sarah said, "God has made me laugh, and everyone who hears that I have had a baby will join with me and also laugh." She knew everyone would be surprised and happy that two old people could have a baby.

After some years had passed, God wanted to be sure Abraham still loved and trusted only God. One day God told Abraham to take his only son, Isaac, the son he loved so very much, and offer Isaac up as a burnt offering to God. Abraham got up the very next morning. He called his only son, Isaac, and two servants to go with him. He got some wood to burn the offering. Then they started to travel. It took them three days to walk to the mountain. It was where God wanted them to be.

When they got there, Abraham told his servants to stay behind while he and Isaac went on a little further. Isaac was carrying the wood. Abraham had the fire and a knife. Isaac asked his father where the lamb was that they would offer on the fire to God. Abraham told Isaac that God would make sure they had a lamb.

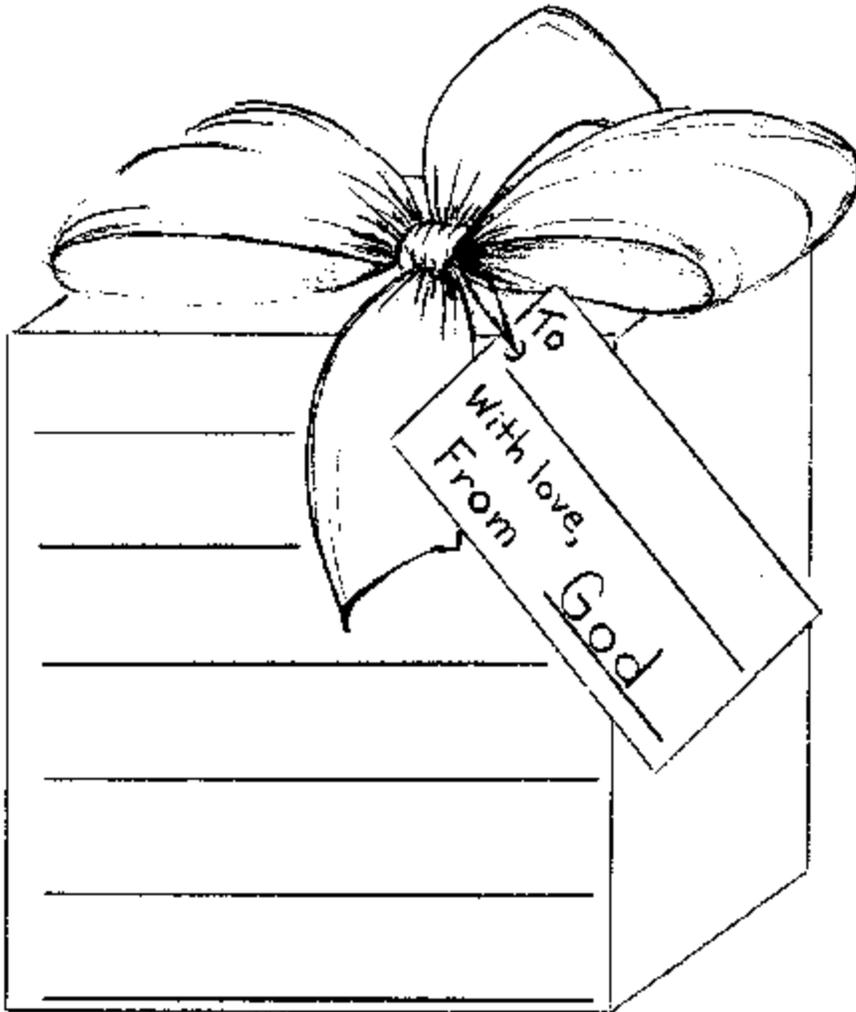
When they came to the exact place where God wanted them, Abraham built an altar. He put the wood on it. Last of all he tied Isaac up

and put Isaac on the altar. He pulled out the knife and lifted it to kill his only son. Suddenly the Angel of the Lord called out to him and told him, "Don't kill your son. Don't even hurt him. Now I know you love and trust me more than even your only son. "

Just then Abraham saw a ram caught in some bushes behind him. Abraham took that ram and offered it on the altar instead of Isaac. Then the Angel of the Lord called out to Abraham again and said, "Because I know you love me more than your only son, I promise I will bless you and give you many more family members. Some day you will have such a big family you won't even be able to count everyone. Also, your large family will be very strong. Best of all, the Savior will come from your family and all the world will be blessed through the Savior."

Can you imagine how sad Abraham felt when God told him to offer his son as a burnt offering to God? Yet, he was going to do exactly what God told him to do. God made Abraham's faith strong, so he could do what God asked. He wants to make our faith strong too. He will take care of us just as He took care of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

**Activity One** - Write your name on the gift tag. God gives us many things. Can you find six gifts from God in the boxes? Cut the boxes out or write them in the package.



Babies

Joy

Sin

Forgiveness

Love for Jesus

Trust in God

Meanness

Love for Others

**Activity Two** - Look at the picture on page 1.

1. Draw a happy face  on the thing that gave Abraham so much happiness and joy.
2. Draw a heart  on the person who loved and trusted in God more than anything else.
3. Find the place on the picture where it tries to show us that we get our help from God? Color the lines yellow.

***God strengthened Abraham, Sarah and Isaac to live their lives dependent upon Him.***

***All of us should love and trust God above anything else.***

## **Passage**

Philippians 2:13 "... for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

## **Hymn** - TLH 428, v. 1, 6

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,  
Trusting only Thee;  
Trusting Thee for full salvation,  
Great and free.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;  
Never let me fall.  
I am trusting Thee forever  
And for all.

## **Prayer**

Dear Jesus,

Help us to love and trust only in You. Please be with us as You were with Abraham. Amen.

# Isaac's Birth/Abraham Offers Isaac

Genesis 21:1-7; 22:1-19



# The Story

God had promised Abraham, who used to be called Abram, not just one child but many children. Abraham and Sarah were getting very old and still they had no baby. God wanted to make Abraham's and Sarah's faith stronger. He wanted them to learn to trust only in Him.

The Lord came to Sarah and did something wonderful for Sarah, just as He had said He would. He gave Sarah and Abraham a baby boy when they were very old. Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90 when they had their baby. This was exactly the time God wanted the baby to be born.

Abraham called his new baby boy, Isaac. Abraham circumcised Isaac when Isaac was only eight days old, just as God had told him he should. And Sarah said, "God has made me laugh, and everyone who hears that I have had a baby will join with me and also laugh." She knew everyone would be surprised and happy that two old people could have a baby.

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It took them three days to walk to the mountain where God wanted them to be. When they got there, Abraham told his servants to stay behind while he and Isaac went on a little farther. Isaac was carrying the wood. Abraham had the fire and a knife. Isaac asked his father where the lamb was that they would offer on the fire to God. Abraham told Isaac that God would make sure they had a lamb.

When they came to the exact place where God wanted them, Abraham built an altar. He put the wood on it. Last of all he tied Isaac up and put Isaac on the altar. He pulled out the knife and lifted it to kill his only son.

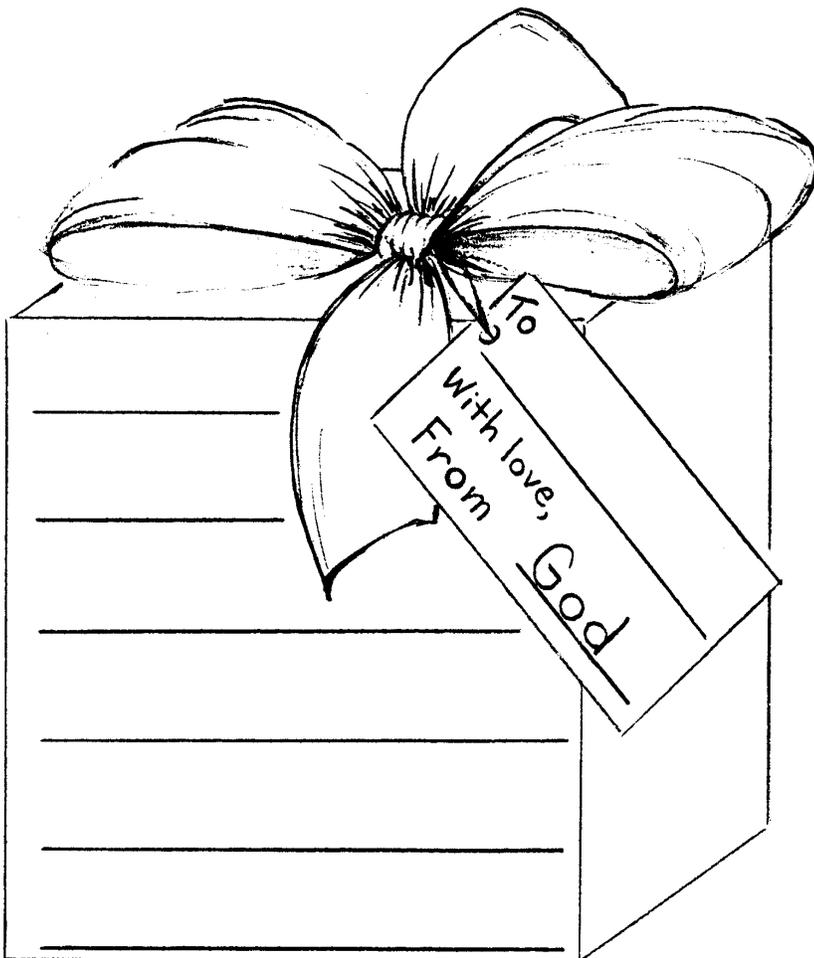
Suddenly the Angel of the Lord called out to him and told him, "Don't kill your son. Don't even hurt him. Now I know you love and trust Me more than even your only son. " Just then Abraham saw a ram caught in some bushes behind him. Abraham took that ram and offered it on the altar instead of Isaac. Abraham named the place "The Lord will Provide" because God helped him just as Abraham believed He would.

Then the Angel of the Lord called out to Abraham again and said, "Because I know you love

me more than even your only son, I promise I will bless you and give you many more family members. Some day you will have such a big family you won't even be able to count everyone. Also, your large family will be very strong. Best of all, the Savior will come from your family and all the world will be blessed through the Savior."

Can you imagine how sad Abraham felt when God told him to offer his son as burnt offering to God? Yet, he was going to do exactly what God told him to do. God gave Abraham a strong faith. That is the only way Abraham could do what God asked of him. God also wants us to love and trust only Him. He will bless us and help us and will take care of us just as He took care of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

**Activity One** - Write your name on the gift tag. Write in the blanks inside the package things which you know you could not have if God did not give them to you. Choose your answers from the list next to the package.



Love for God

A Strong Faith

Good Works

Sin

Life

Forgiveness

Love for Others

Hatred

*God strengthened Abraham, Sarah and Isaac to live their lives dependent upon Him.*

*Jehovah brought Abraham to love and trust in Him above anything else.*

**Activity Two** - Use a pink crayon to make a "check mark" after sentences which show happiness. Use a black crayon to make an "X" after the sentences which show sadness.

1. How do you think Abraham and Sarah felt when they had a baby?\_\_\_\_\_
2. How do you think Abraham felt when God told him to offer Isaac as a burnt offering?\_\_\_\_\_
3. How do you think Abraham felt when God told him he did not have to offer Isaac?\_\_\_\_\_
4. How do you think Abraham felt when God told him that he would have a big and strong family?\_\_\_\_\_
5. How do you think Abraham felt when God told him that the Savior would come from his family?\_\_\_\_\_
6. How do you feel when you have to do things that you do not want to do?\_\_\_\_\_
7. How do you feel when you know that God wants to help you?\_\_\_\_\_
8. How do you feel when you are forgiven for your sins?\_\_\_\_\_

**Activity Three** - Use the picture on page 1 and discuss the following.

1. Color the person who was willing to offer his son as a burnt offering to God.
2. Who else do you know offered His Son as an offering for all the sins of all people?
3. Color the person who was being offered up to God.
4. Who else do you know was offered for the sins of all people?
5. Discuss together how the two stories are the same.
6. Discuss together how the two stories are different.

**Passage** - Look at the passages and then answer the questions.

**Hebrews 11:17-19-** By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

Abraham believed that God would help him. He loved God more than even his only son, Isaac. From the passage above, tell how Abraham thought God might help him. \_\_\_\_\_

**Philippians 2:13** for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

According to this passage, who will give you the faith to do whatever God asks of you? \_\_\_\_\_

**Hymn** - TLH 428, v. 1, 6

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,  
Trusting only Thee;  
Trusting Thee for full salvation,  
Great and free.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;  
Never let me fall.  
I am trusting Thee forever  
And for all.

## Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

We know that Abraham, Sarah and Isaac did not always have a strong faith. We know that You who gave them faith in the first place also gave them a strong faith. Please make our faith stronger too. Help us to always love and trust only in You. Amen.

# Isaac's Birth/Abraham Offers Isaac

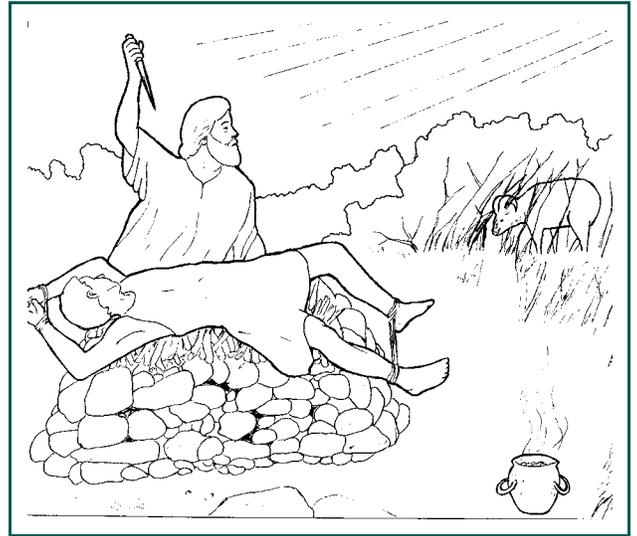
Genesis 21:1-7; 22:1-19

Who in this picture do you think needs God's help?

Who in this picture do you think wants God's help?

Who in this picture do you think deserves God's help?

Who in this picture do you think God will help and why?



## Prayer

Dear Lord, We come to You to ask You to help us understand Your ways. Sometimes we do not know why You do things in this world the way You do. What we do know is that Your ways are best. Help us in today's lesson to learn how all things you do are right and good for those who believe in You. Amen.

## The Story Genesis 21:1-7; 22:1-19

And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken. {2} For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. {3} And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him; whom Sarah bore to him; Isaac. {4} Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had

commanded him. {5} Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

{6} And Sarah said, "God has made me laugh, and all who hear will laugh with me." {7} She also said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? For I have borne him a son in his old age."

22:1 Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham,



and said to him, "Abraham!"

And he said, "Here I am."

{2} Then He said, "Take now 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 of which I shall tell you."

{3} So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. {4} Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. {5} And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

{6} So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. {7} But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!"

And he said, "Here I am, my son."

Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

{8} And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

{9} Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.

{10} And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

{11} But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!"

So he said, "Here I am."

{12} And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

{13} Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. {14} And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided."

{15} Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, {16} and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son; {17} "blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. {18} "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

{19} So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

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## Outer Aim

God strengthened Abraham, Sarah and Isaac to live their lives dependent upon Him.

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**What the Story Tells Us** - Fill in the blanks in the following sentences. Choose your answers from the words given below.

1. God gave Abraham and Sarah a \_\_\_\_\_ when they were old.
2. God gave Abraham \_\_\_\_\_ so he could do as God commanded.
3. God helped Abraham to \_\_\_\_\_ God more than his only son.
4. God will help us to \_\_\_\_\_ only in Him.
5. God gives us an \_\_\_\_\_ of the way He works in this world.
6. God helps us \_\_\_\_\_.

understanding
do good works
baby
strong faith
trust
love and trust

**What God Tells Us** - Answer the following questions.

1. Why was it unusual for Abraham and Sarah to have a baby?
2. Why did God make them wait so long for the child He had promised them?
3. Why did God tell Abraham to offer Isaac up as burnt offering to Him?
4. Why was Abraham able to do what God asked of him?
5. Why was Isaac so important to Abraham?
6. Why was Isaac so important to all believers?

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**Inner Aim**

God brought Abraham to revere, love, and trust in Him above/before anything else.

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**Your Turn** - Fill in the chart listing Isaac and Jesus' similarities and differences.

ISAAC	JESUS
How they are the same:	
How they are different:	

**Passages**

Hebrews 11:17-19 "By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only-begotten son, of whom it was said, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called,' concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead."

Phil. 2:13 "...for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

Hebrews 6:13 "for when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying 'surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.'"

Tell how these passages apply to the Inner Aim.

### Hymn - TLH #517 v.1,2

The will of God is always best  
And shall be done forever;  
And they who trust in Him are blest,  
He will forsake them never.  
He helps indeed in time of need,  
He chastens with forbearing;  
They who depend on God, their Friend,  
Shall not be left despairing.

God is my Comfort and my Trust,  
My Hope and Life abiding;  
And to His counsel, wise and just,  
I yield, in Him confiding.  
The very hairs, His Word declares,  
Upon my head He numbers.  
By night and day God is my Stay,  
He never sleeps nor slumbers.

### Prayer

Dear Lord, We like Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac are weak and can't fully understand Your ways of doing things. Please help us as You helped them. Give us a strong faith so we may believe that You always know what is best for us. Help us to trust You always and to love You more than anything else. Thank You for loving us and giving us faith in Your Son Jesus. Amen.

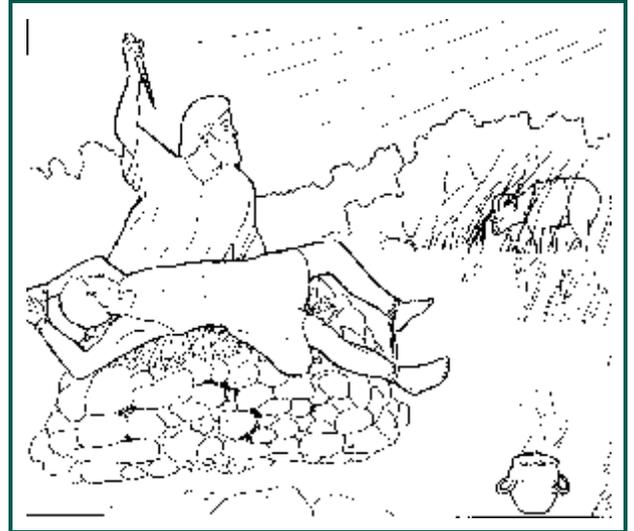
# Isaac's Birth/Abraham Offers Isaac

Genesis 21:1-7; 22:1-19

Does this picture of Abraham and Isaac remind you of another time when a Father gave His Son as an offering?

## Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, We come before You this day asking You to guide our hearts and minds as we study Your Word. Help us to know and understand Your will in our lives. Help us to believe Your promise that You will bless us and will forgive us when we have a weak faith. Amen.



## The Story Genesis 21:1-7; 22:1-19

And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken. {2} For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. {3} And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him; whom Sarah bore to him; Isaac. {4} Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. {5} Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

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children? For I have borne him a son in his old age."

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third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. {5} And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

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## Outer Aim

**God strengthened Abraham, Sarah and Isaac to live their lives dependent upon Him.**

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**What The Story Tells Us** - Answer the following questions.

1. Why was it unusual for Abraham and Sarah to have a baby?
2. Why did God make them wait so long for the child He had promised them?
3. Why did God tell Abraham to offer Isaac up as burnt offering to Him?
4. Why was Abraham able to do what God asked of him?
5. Why was Isaac so important to Abraham?
6. Why was Isaac so important to all believers?

**What the Bible Tells Us** - Look up the following passages. Tell whether they show a strong faith or a weak faith.

Gen. 12:1-4	_____	Gen. 17:17	_____
Gen. 15:1-6	_____	Gen. 18:11,15	_____
Gen. 16:1,2	_____	Gen. 22:8	_____

What was the blessing Abraham and Sarah needed that we all need according to Rom. 4:1-8?

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**Inner Aim**

**Jehovah brought Abraham to revere, love, and trust in Him above/before anything else.**

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**Your Turn** - Discuss the following.

Describe how Abraham's offering his son Isaac is like God offering His Son Jesus?

Describe how Jesus and Isaac were alike. Describe how Jesus and Isaac were different.

Tell how God's ways of dealing with Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac show His ways of dealing with all sinful men.

## Passages

*Hebrews 12:5-7 "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; {6} For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." {7} If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?"*

*Philippians 2:13 "...for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."*

*Hebrews 6:13 "for when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying 'surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.'"*

According to these passages what truths do we know about God's ruling in the lives of sinful mankind? Underline the words in the passage that answer the question.

## Hymn - TLH #517 v.1,2

The will of God is always best  
And shall be done forever;  
And they who trust in Him are blest,  
He will forsake them never.  
He helps indeed in time of need,  
He chastens with forbearing;  
They who depend on God, their Friend,  
Shall not be left despairing.

God is my Comfort and my Trust,  
My Hope and Life abiding;  
And to His counsel, wise and just,  
I yield, in Him confiding.  
The very hairs, His Word declares,  
Upon my head He numbers.  
By night and day God is my Stay,  
He never sleeps nor slumbers.

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, We praise You for Your goodness and mercy. Thank You for giving us faith in Your Son Jesus. Forgive us for our times of weak faith when we like Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac don't love and trust only You. Give us a strong faith so we may find our greatest joy and hope in the fulfillment of all Your promises. Amen.

**STORY**

Isaac's Birth; Abraham offers Isaac - Genesis 21:1-7; 22:1-19

**TEACHER PRAYER**

Lord God, use me to bring to my students a deeper concept of what You have in mind for us. Help them to comprehend more deeply how You think and operate with us, and lead us to place our lives into Your hands, from which we receive such wonderful blessings. Amen.

**VOCABULARY**

Seed in the KJV, or descendant in NKJV is the same Hebrew word (offspring, child). Locate geographic names on a display map for students.

**OUTER AIM**

God strengthened Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac to live their lives dependent upon Him.

**INNER AIM**

One small step for God/one large step for mankind as Jehovah brought Abraham to revere, love, and trust in Him above/before anyone or anything else.

**BACKGROUND** (*Rupprecht Bible History References, Vol.1, pp.66-69*)

The point of reviewing God's ways with Abraham is to reveal how God operates. This is not a story of two old people who had a baby and the old man almost killed him, but a revelation of the original pattern of salvation: People are saved by God, into Whose hands they entrust their lives, their futures, and their eternal souls. Abraham and Isaac are original patterns of the *way God thinks about humans and how He operates with us, which is the prime purpose of religion, after all.* (How we think and operate with God is secondary.) Thus Abraham's biography contains milestones in God's routing to outmaneuver the enemy Satan.

After a lot of ups and downs (chs. 14-20) in Abram's life, the great event arrived. By now Ishmael was fourteen, but he was NOT the "one and only" special child the Lord had promised.

vs.1-3

It took special miracles to procreate this baby; for Sarai had never become pregnant during her fertile years and was now in menopause. Miraculously, the LORD saw to it that Sarai and Abram could engender a baby. After a normal pregnancy she gave birth, exactly as the LORD had promised them in 17:16-19, the "one-and-only" son to bear the covenant-promise: *But My covenant I will establish with Isaac* (not with Ishmael), born to Sarah (not to Hagar).

vs.4-7

Additional details: There was a specific requirement for a person to be included in the covenant of grace: a minor operation on the loose skin of the penis. Abraham performed the requirement. This was an external sign of internal, personal dedication of self to the LORD, ch.17:13. Isaac meaning "he laughs," now a source of rejoicing to an aged woman and the 100 yr. old father.

vs. 8-9

Isaac's passing from infancy to childhood was celebrated in the traditional way.

Hagar's teenager thought it ridiculous that he as firstborn would lose his spot to the new baby.



The sacrifice of Isaac, Ch. 22: 1-19

Secure against Ishmael's threat, Isaac grew into adulthood sheltered in the love of his parents.

v.1

We deduce that the LORD was not toying with Abraham, but that this test was necessary for Abraham's soul-care. The father's love for his one and only son needed adjusting lest it displace his love and respect for the LORD.

vs.2-5

There can be no doubt as to God's intent, for He spelled it out in detail. Thus Abraham was not in trouble with God (5th and 8th commandments) in telling his servants that the lad would return, for he was fully convinced that after he killed Isaac, God would raise him back to life (Heb.11:17-19).

vs.6-8

Although Isaac was perplexed, Abraham's loving response helped him maintain the highest trust.

vs.9-12

Step by step, Abraham moved forward with faith in the LORD; Isaac submitted out of confidence in his father. It was no game-playing for Abraham to build the altar, bind Isaac upon it, and raise the knife for a fatal stab. The LORD has seen into his heart: *Now I know* speaks of knowledge based on the evidence, just as His final judgment will be based on evidence of actions. (Deeds are the product of motives, which are engineered in the powerplant-heart; and the engineer for spiritual activity is the LORD.) Jehovah had won over Abraham's heart to love and revere Him above and beyond even his dearly beloved one and only son.

vs.13-14

The substituted animal, providentially provided, was returned to the LORD as a thank-offering for all His goodness. (Jesus had no such substitute, for the stakes were too high to allow it.)

By time Moses wrote this account, it had become a proverbial saying full of Messianic meaning: "In the hill of Jehovah provision is made."

v.15

The Angel of the LORD, identifying Himself as God (both here and in vv.11-12), took an oath on Himself. This level of assurance occurs only twice elsewhere in Scripture! He reaffirmed the blessings of ch.12, reaching the zenith in "*all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in your seed,*" the seed identified as Jesus in Galatians 3:16.

v.16 As this chapter in his life closes, Abraham is at home in Beersheba, chastened and strengthened by the experience on Moriah, the child of God who has become the hero of faith, the exemplar for every generation of God's sons and daughters.

## **STUDENT PRAYER**

Dear Lord Jesus, I would really like You to direct me just as you did Abraham. I probably don't need a vision or a direct visit, so I'll try to content myself with Your words given me in the Bible. Help me to learn how to apply Scripture to my life, just as I apply Your love to my life. Thanks for everything. Amen.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **Abraham's Faith**

This is not the story of an old man who almost murdered his boy, nor is it a Jewish legend of a blood-thirsty God who enjoyed torturing people. Rather, we see here that our LORD was following a faith-building program to strengthen and toughen Abraham to depend on **His** best judgment in all situations. (Modern bodybuilders understand the value of stressing muscles in order to strengthen. Olympic-class athletes get there by heroic exercise regimens.) These two selected episodes from the chronicles of Abraham will be understood and properly evaluated (at least by the teacher, maybe also by the student) only by rehearsing some of the other highlights in God's program of strength-training for Abraham--chapters twelve through twenty-one.

That is, when he left his fatherland with its familiar comforts...when he gave up his ties to family and tribe...when he endured the privation of childlessness...when he lost contact with nephew Lot...when he lost Ishmael as the potential "chosen seed"...(plus a lot more) each step of the way the LORD assisted, nurtured, and assured Abraham that He would take care of the whole program, even in the details, so that by the time of the sacrifice of Isaac, Abraham had been strengthened enough (in relying on the LORD) to be able to give up his one-and-only boy, if God so requested it.

### **God's Promises**

Promises are meant to be kept. A promise-maker is obligated for two reasons: to prove the promise-maker reliable, and to benefit the person receiving the promise. That's how God works--whether in small or large promises; God does not make a promise He won't or can't keep; so when He pledges Himself to do the job of saving our souls and to be our Helper in all earthly needs, we can bank on it that He will keep His word.

### **Human Limitations**

Perhaps one of your students has a handicap. Can God turn a handicap into a good tool in His service? Certainly! (I have seen a preacher severely handicapped with cerebral palsy deliver a tremendous sermon entitled: "I'M NOT O.K.; YOU'RE not O.K.") Every child of God has his/her limitations; even the apostle Paul had a severe one, and God let it bother Paul all his life because Paul had enough of God's grace to carry him past/over/around his handicap to become the greatest soul-winner in the early Christian Church.

## **APPLICATION**

1. Why do we spend time learning about Abraham and Isaac? Through such examples we can learn how God functions. Just as we learn the laws of gravity, electricity and magnetism, light and heat, the ecosystem, etc., so that we use and make applications of these laws to ourselves, so we learn of God's ways with sinners in order to apply His rule of grace to our own salvation.

2. Since there are notable correspondences between Isaac and Jesus, a special reason for placing this OT episode into the series is to help us concentrate on our Savior. Some similarities are:

- each was the "one-and-only" son of the father;
- each was long-promised and long-awaited;
- each bore the promise of bringing blessings to all nations;
- no human substitute dare take his place (not Ishmael for Isaac/not anyone imperfect for Jesus);
- each submitted obediently to the father's will (as a lamb to the slaughter);
- each to be sacrificed on Moriah (the site of the temple in Jerusalem);
- Isaac was as good as dead until the third day; Jesus physically dead until the third day;
- each returned to his father to carry out his life's purpose.

In these ways Isaac is a type of Jesus, and Jesus is the prototype for Isaac.

3. It's a miracle when a baby is born (and it is the sin of murder to choose to abort); Isaac's birth was almost as big a miracle as the virgin birth of Jesus. This demonstrates that God ignores human limitations when He chooses to do so in order to get His salvation program moving forward or to pass it on from one soul to another.

## **PASSAGES**

**These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.**

### Lower

John 3:16 - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

Matthew 3:17 - *And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

Galatians 4:28 - *Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise.*

### Middle - any of the above and ...

Hebrews 11:17-19 - *By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only-begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead....*

Hebrews 11:1 - *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Phil. 2:13 *for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

### Upper - any of the above and ..

Hebrews 6:13 - *For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."*

Hebrews 12:5-7 - *My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and Scourges every son whom He receives." If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?*

## **HYMN CHOICES**

"My God, My Father, While I Stray" (TLH #418: 1,3,4,7)

"From God Shall Naught Divide Me" (TLH #393: 1,3)

"I Will Sing My Maker's Praises" (TLH #25: 3,6)

"Commit Whatever Grieves Thee" (TLH #520: 8,10)

"The Will Of God Is Always Best" (TLH #517:1,2)

# Isaac's Birth/Abraham Offers Isaac

Genesis 21:1-7; 22:1-19

## The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

God had promised Abraham a son. Abraham and Sarah were getting very old and still they had no baby.

The Lord kept His promise just as He said He would. He gave Sarah and Abraham a baby boy when they were very old. Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90 when they had their baby. This was exactly the time God wanted the baby to be born. Abraham called his new baby boy Isaac. And Sarah said, "God has made me laugh, and everyone who hears that I have had a baby will join with me and also laugh."

After some years had passed, God told Abraham to take his only son, Isaac, the son he loved so very much, and offer Isaac up as a burnt offering to God. Abraham got up the very next morning. He called his only son, Isaac, and two servants to go with him. He got some wood to burn the offering. Then they started to travel. It took them three days to walk to the mountain. It was where God wanted them to be.

When they got there, Abraham told his servants to stay behind while he and Isaac went on a little further. Isaac was carrying the wood. Abraham had the fire and a knife. Isaac asked his father where the lamb was that they would offer on the fire to God. Abraham told Isaac that God would make sure they had a lamb.

When they came to the exact place where God wanted them, Abraham built an altar. He put the wood on it. Last of all he tied Isaac up and put Isaac on the altar. He pulled out the knife and lifted it to kill his only son. Suddenly the Angel of the Lord called out to him and told him, "Don't kill your son. Don't even hurt him. Now I know you love and trust me more than even your only son. "

Just then Abraham saw a ram caught in some bushes behind him. Abraham took that ram and offered it on the altar instead of Isaac.

Then the Angel of the Lord called out to Abraham again and said, "Because I know you love me more than your only son, I promise I will bless you and give you many more family members. Some day you will have such a big family you won't even be able to count everyone. Also, your large family will be very strong. Best of all, the Savior will come from your family and all the world will be blessed through the Savior."

*God strengthened Abraham,  
Sarah and Isaac to live their lives  
dependent upon Him.*

*All of us should love and trust God  
above anything else.*

## Passage

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart..." Mark 12:30a

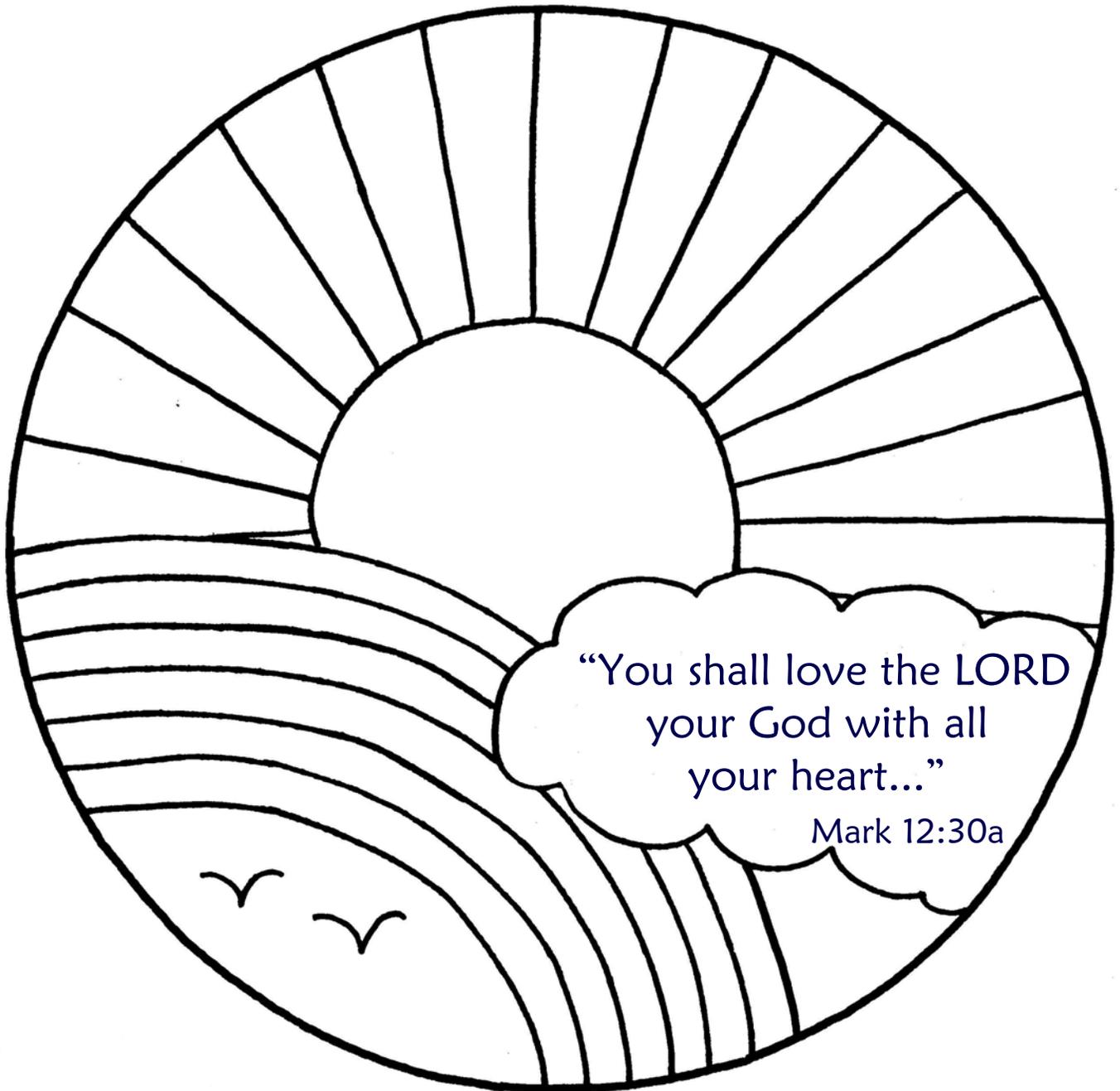
## Hymn - TLH 428, v. 6

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;  
Never let me fall.  
I am trusting Thee forever  
And for all.



# Classroom Art Activity - Paper Plate Frisbee

Have the children color the circle, cut out and glue to a paper plate or 4-5 qt. ice cream bucket lid.





## Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

Help us to love and trust only in You. Please be with us as You were with Abraham. Keep our faith in Jesus always in our hearts. In Jesus' name we ask this. Amen.