

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.

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 and called his only son, Isaac, and two servants to go with him. He got some wood to burn the offering and then they started to travel.

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.

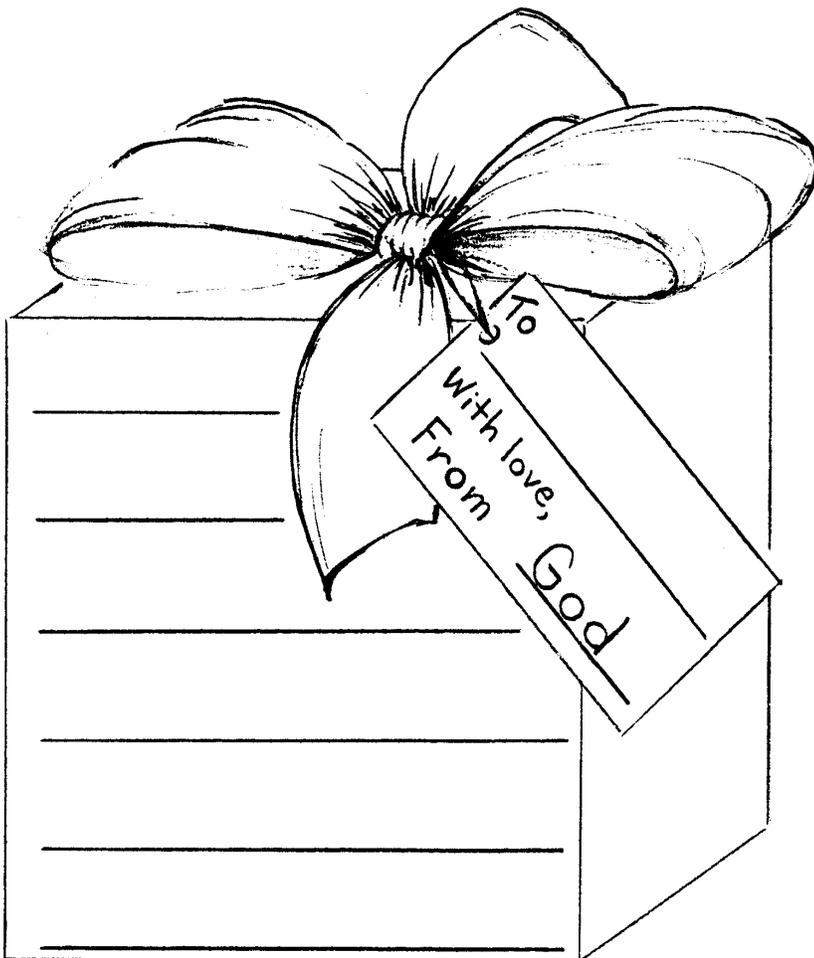
Suddenly the Angel of the Lord called out to him and told him, "Don't kill your son. Don't even hurt him. Now I know you love and trust Me more than even your only son." Just then Abraham saw a ram caught in some bushes behind him. Abraham took that ram and offered it on the altar instead of Isaac. Abraham 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.