



## GOD PROVIDED ISAAC: GENESIS 21-22

UNIT 3: SESSION 3

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## UNIT 3: SESSION 3



### KEY PASSAGE:

Psalm 135:5-6



### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God's good plan.



### CHRIST CONNECTION:

- **Toddlers:** God loves us and keeps His promise.
- **Ages 3-5:** Abraham loved God. He was willing to give up his son Isaac, but God provided a ram. God loves us. He gave His Son, Jesus, to save the world from sin.
- **Pre-Primary:** Abraham loved God. He was willing to give up his son Isaac, but God provided a ram so Isaac could live. God was willing to give up His Son, Jesus, to save the world from sin. Jesus offered His life as a sacrifice for our sin so we can live.
- **Primary:** Abraham showed his love for God by being willing to sacrifice his son Isaac. God provided a ram instead. This is how God showed His love for us: He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that we could have eternal life through Him.

### LEADER BIBLE STUDY

In Genesis 22, Abraham repeated one phrase three times: "Here I am." Abraham first used "Here I am" on his journey when God called his name. Abraham then used this phrase in response to his son, Isaac. On the journey to the place of sacrifice, Isaac called out to his father and Abraham responded, "Here I am." Third, Abraham responded to the angel of the Lord: "Here I am." The angel called Abraham's name twice as he was about to sacrifice his son in obedience to God.

Abraham's use of this phrase clearly shows his open-handed readiness to serve. Abraham responded to the Lord, to his son, and to the angel from his humble heart and willing spirit. Instead of shutting down and stopping his ears to God because of the incredibly challenging task God had put before him, Abraham remained steadfast in His openness to the Lord.

God desires that we always be ready for however He may intend to use us for His glory and our good. It may be as we drive along in the car, as we hurry through a long list of tasks at work, or in the stillness of a quiet moment with the Lord early in the morning. It also may come in the intensity of grieving the loss of a loved one, navigating conflict in the body of Christ, or as we gather with others to worship. Whenever we sense the leading of the Spirit of God, may we take a posture similar to Abraham, always willingly to say, "Here I am."

# 1. WELCOME KIDS

## OPTIONAL GAMES (10 minutes)

### OPTION 1: WHAT WE LOVE

Instruct the kids to sit in a circle. Choose one kid to go first. He will begin by saying something he loves (e.g. a person in his family, a sport, a toy). The next kid will repeat the first kid's answer then add his own. Continue around the circle until everyone has had a turn - repeating everything he/she has heard and adding his own.

**SAY:** We all have things that we love. The Bible tells us we must love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. When we do that, we are willing to give God whatever He asks of us. In our story we'll hear what God asked Abraham to do and how Abraham was willing to give God what He wanted, no matter what it cost him.

### OPTION 2: BUILD AN ALTER

Break the group into teams and ask them to build an altar. Using something heavy, place on the built altar. The winning team is the team with the most stable altar.

**SAY:** We worked together to build a pretend altar with our blocks. An altar is a place where people would give an offering to God. In our Bible story today, we will learn about a time Abraham built an altar to worship God. Let's listen to the Bible story to learn more about Abraham's offering to God.

# 2. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

## INTRODUCE THE SESSION

Display Bible story picture poster so all the children can see it. Point and identify Abraham, Isaac, and the ram on the Bible story picture poster. Lead the children to say the person or animal as a group as you point to it in the picture. Ask the children simple questions with the answer being Abraham, Isaac, or the ram.



**SAY:** Abraham loved his son Isaac. God knew Abraham loved Him most of all. He was willing to give up his son Isaac, but God provided a ram. God loves us. He gave His Son, Jesus, to save the world from sin.





## BIG PICTURE QUESTION



**SAY:** That reminds me of the big picture question we have been answering. Who is in control? We know that God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. **Nothing is outside of God's good plan.** I'm so glad the answer to that question isn't me! Can you imagine if you or I were in control over everything? We would surely mess it all up. **But God doesn't make mistakes.** God is perfect in everything He does and is never surprised by the things that happen in life.



## REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Abraham and his wife Sarah were very old when their son, Isaac, was born. God said Isaac would be part of God's special plan to send Jesus. Abraham loved God and trusted Him. One day, God told Abraham to give Isaac as a gift to God. Abraham trusted God, and Abraham obeyed. Abraham and Isaac went up the mountain. Abraham got ready to offer Isaac to God. Then a voice called from heaven and said, "Abraham, stop." God sent a ram to be the gift instead. God knew Abraham loved God most of all.



**SAY:** Sometimes stories in the Bible are hard to understand. It may be difficult for us to understand why God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. God does not call for human sacrifice, but in this story God told Abraham to offer Isaac as a means of testing Abraham's faith. Let's take a look at three important things we can take away from this story.

**First, this story shows that God provides the greater sacrifice.** God never intended for Abraham to sacrifice his son. He told Abraham to do this as a means of testing and growing his faith. Abraham didn't waver. He was ready to obey. On the way up the mountain Isaac noticed that they didn't have what was needed for the sacrifice. Abraham told him that God himself would provide. Just like God provided the ram for Abraham to sacrifice, God provided the ultimate sacrifice for our sin. God called Abraham to offer his son, but instead God gave up His one and only Son on our behalf.

**Second, we learn that God knows what is best for us.** The Lord had something to teach Abraham in this story. Abraham may have been tempted to love his son Isaac more than he loved God. But God had something better in store for Abraham. God wanted Abraham's faith to grow and for Abraham's love for God to go even deeper. God wants the same for us. Are there things in your life you are tempted to love more than God? Those things may not be bad things, but if anything becomes an idol in our hearts, it becomes bad for us. God wants what is best for us, and that is Himself! God wants us to know and love Him, to trust and obey Him alone.

**Third, we see that God always keeps His promises.** When Abraham demonstrated his great faith in and love for God, God reminded Abraham again of His promise. God promised Abraham that He would make his descendants as numerous as the sand on the seashore, and that one day his family would take possession of the special land that God would give them. God also reminded Abraham of His promise to bless all the nations of the world through his descendants.




### 3. GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)


Ask the following questions. Lead the kids to discuss their answers.

 **SAY:** Why do you think Abraham was able to trust God?

Guide the kids to see that Abraham knew God's promise to provide a family for him. The whole world would be blessed through Abraham's family. It took great faith for Abraham to trust God. Consider reading Hebrews 11:1 to the kids or having a volunteer read it. Explain that we have faith when we are confident in the things we hope for. It requires faith to trust that God is with us and is working for our good and His glory. Remember, who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God's good plan. It takes faith to trust that the Bible comes from God and that He speaks to us through it. We can have faith like Abraham and trust and obey God.

 **SAY:** Who is someone you love very much? How do you show that person you love them?

Help the kids understand that God tested Abraham because God wanted to know if he loved him more than anything else. Was Abraham willing to sacrifice the son he loved for God? The stakes were high for Abraham but he didn't waver. Abraham loved God and was willing to do whatever God asked of him, even when it meant his own son would die. Do we love God so much that we put Him before everything else in our lives? We can point to the things we love most by the way we spend our time, or thoughts, or even our money. If there are things we are tempted to love more than God we can turn away from those idols and turn to God instead. He is worthy of our worship and ultimately, He is the one who will satisfy our hearts.

 **SAY:** What are some of the good things God has provided for you?

After God gave Abraham the ram to sacrifice, Abraham named the mountain The Lord will Provide. This served as a reminder of the incredible thing God had done for him. God provided the sacrifice, so Abraham didn't have to lose his only son. God provides for us today too. Every good gift we have comes from God. We can thank and praise Him for all that He gives to us. The greatest gift is Jesus, our Savior and the way that we can be made right with God.

If time remains, take prayer requests. **Pray for your group.**

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# 4. ACTIVITIES

**THE GOSPEL PROJECT**

## God Provided Isaac

**BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:**

- God kept His promise to give Abraham and Sarah a son.
- God told Abraham to take Isaac to a mountain and give him to God as an offering.
- Abraham and Isaac went up the mountain by themselves.
- God could see that Abraham loved Isaac.
- God sent a ram for Abraham to offer instead of Isaac.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:**  
Abraham loved God. He was willing to give up his son, Isaac, to please God. Jesus loves us. He gave His Son, Jesus, to save the world from sin.

**KEY MESSAGE PHRASE:**  
The Lord is great. Psalm 135:5

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**  
Who makes everything happen? God makes everything happen.

Illustration: © 2021 Liberty

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## Word Search for Abraham Was Called to Sacrifice Isaac

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

I	T	A	B	R	A	H	A	M	A	I	D
U	N	T	A	L	A	T	N	E	K	I	T
L	O	R	E	R	T	E	G	D	N	T	O
N	U	L	A	O	F	F	E	R	I	N	G
B	O	N	S	M	S	C	L	L	F	A	N
D	U	E	V	E	L	R	I	R	E	U	R
L	A	R	O	F	F	S	P	R	I	N	G
I	U	M	N	N	E	E	T	A	T	V	E
S	T	N	I	T	T	N	I	S	M	O	D
A	I	O	N	S	E	G	I	A	M	V	E
A	A	S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	T
C	U	E	D	O	L	A	L	T	A	R	U

ABRAHAM	ANGEL	ISAAC	OFFERING	RAM
ALTAR	BURNT	KNIFE	OFFSPRING	SACRIFICE

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## Find the Ram

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Find a path between the bushes to get Abraham to the ram.

**START**

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## Abraham Was Called To Sacrifice Isaac Word Scramble

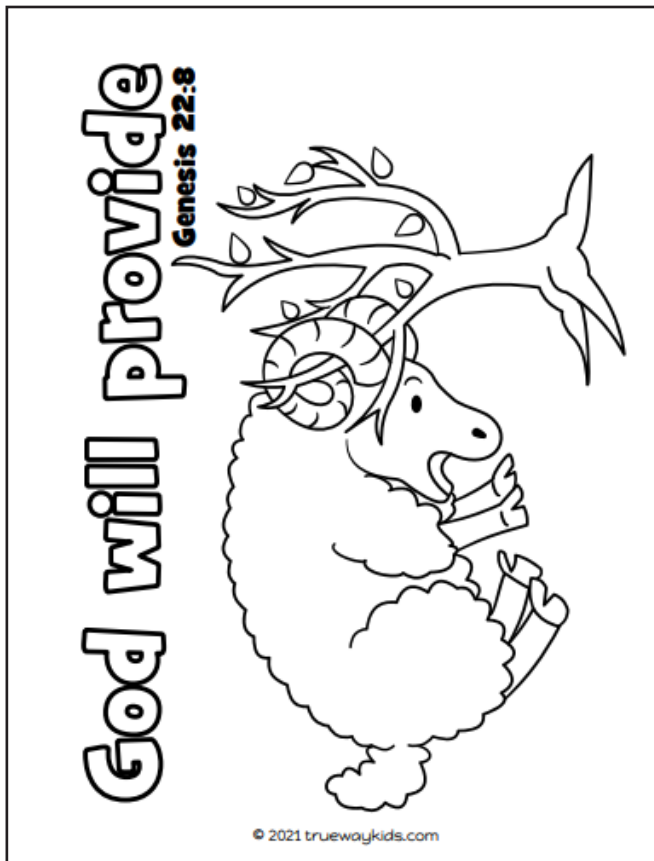
Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circle boxes and unscramble them to find the answer to the last phrase.

ASCIA	I S A A C
EFIKN	K N I F E
RALAT	A L T A R
LEANG	A N G E L
HABARMA	A B R A H A M

**Clue: God tested Abraham's FAITH.**

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## 4. CRAFT



## God Provided Isaac

### BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- God kept His promise to give Abraham and Sarah a son.
- They named their son Isaac.
- God told Abraham to take Isaac to a mountain and give him to God as an offering.
- Abraham and Isaac went up the mountain by themselves.
- God could see that Abraham loved God most of all.
- God sent a ram for Abraham to offer instead of Isaac.

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

Abraham loved God. He was willing to give up his son Isaac, but God provided a ram. God loves us. He gave His Son, Jesus, to save the world from sin.

### KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

The Lord is great. Psalm 135:5

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who makes everything happen? God makes everything happen.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



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# Find the Ram

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Find a path between the bushes to get Abraham to the ram.





## Abraham Was Called To Sacrifice Isaac Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circle boxes and unscramble them to find the answer to the last phrase.

ASCIA

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EFIKN

			○	
--	--	--	---	--

RALAT

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LEANG

○				
---	--	--	--	--

HABARMA

				○		
--	--	--	--	---	--	--

Clue: God tested Abraham's 

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Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

I T A B R A H A M A I D  
U N T A L A T N E K I T  
L O R E R T E G D N T O  
N U L A O F F E R I N G  
B O N S M S C L L F A N  
D U E V E L R I R E U R  
L A R O F F S P R I N G  
I U M N N E E T A T V E  
S T N I T T N I S M O D  
A I O N S E G I A M V E  
A A S A C R I F I C E T E  
C U E D O L A L T A R U

ABRAHAM  
ALTAR

ANGEL  
BURNT

ISAAC  
KNIFE

OFFERING  
OFFSPRING

RAM  
SACRIFICE

# God will provide

**Genesis 22:8**



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