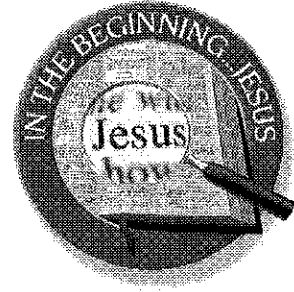


In the Beginning...Jesus



Lesson 10

God Provides Abraham with a Right Offering

Themes:

- God made a binding covenant with Abraham and his son Isaac.
- God's people must have a right covering for sin.
- Faith in God is demonstrated through obedience to God.
- What God required of Abraham, He provided for Abraham.

Scripture:

Genesis 22; Hebrews 11:17-19

Memory Verse:

Isaiah 53:8a (and review verses 3-7)

Visuals:

- Bible.
- *In the Beginning...Jesus* poster.
- Resource Packet:
 - TEST #1 and ANSWERS 1-15.
 - GOD'S MERCY/GOD'S JUDGMENT (from previous lessons).
 - GOD—MAN visual (from previous lessons).
 - JESUS IS THE KEY (from previous lessons).
 - LAMB (from Lesson 5).
 - CLUE SCRAMBLE 1 and 2.
 - GOD'S PROMISE and ISAAC—Connect the two signs with about 5-10 inches of ribbon so that GOD'S PROMISE is suspended from ISAAC.
 - Bible Clue Card #12 and #13.
- Magnifying glass (for use in reading the clue cards).
- Optional: animal skin or ANIMAL SKINS visual (used in Lesson 5)—Put the skin or the visual in a box and place the GOD'S MERCY sign (mentioned above) on the outside of the box.
- Knife.
- \$10 or \$20 bill and a box of matches.
- Scissors.

Lesson

Explain to the children that they are going to take two tests today in class. The first test will be on the past nine lessons, and the second test will cover what they learn in today's lesson.

TEST 1: Choose two children to come to the front. Give one child **TEST #1** and hand the other child **ANSWERS 1-15**. Explain to the class that all of the questions will have "True" or "False" answers from previous lessons. Tell the children that [child's name] will read the first question and allow the class to answer as a group, and [other child's name] will display the correct answer. Tell the children you want them to do the test as quickly as possible.

Question 1: Adam and Eve were perfectly obedient to God.

Answer 1: False

Question 2: The right punishment for sin is death.

Answer 2: True

Question 3: God provided Adam and Eve with a covering for sin.

Answer 3: True

Question 4: God provided Adam and Eve with leaves to cover their sin.

Answer 4: False

Question 5: God's mercy is His kindness to undeserving sinners.

Answer 5: True

Question 6: Cain brought God a right offering for sin.

Answer 6: False

Question 7: God's judgment is His right punishment on sinners.

Answer 7: True

Question 8: Noah was a sinner and deserved God's judgment.

Answer 8: True

Question 9: Noah decided to build the ark in his own way.

Answer 9: False

Question 10: After the flood, God commanded people to stay in one place on earth.

Answer 10: False

Question 11: The people of Shinar wanted to make a great name for themselves.

Answer 11: True

Question 12: God judged the people of Shinar by sending a flood.

Answer 12: False

Question 13: Abraham and Sarah were sinners.

Answer 13: True

Question 14: Ishmael was the baby that God had promised to Abraham and Sarah.

Answer 14: False

Question 15: God kept His promise to Abraham and Sarah.

Answer 15: True

Have the two children return to their seats. Provide a brief summary as follows:

*From the time of Adam and Eve's disobedience in the garden, the story of the Bible has been about the one eternal Creator God and how He deals with His sinful image bearers. What do all sinners deserve? [God's judgment.] Display the **GOD'S JUDGMENT** sign. But God also is a God who shows mercy—kindness to undeserving sinners.*

Display the **GOD—MAN** visual and comment:

*God in His mercy provided a way to cover the sin of His people so they could have a right relationship with Him. What did God use to cover the sin of His people? (Point to **ANIMAL SKIN** or the real skin in the **GOD'S MERCY** box.)*

Display the animal skin, if you have one, and remind the children that the animal that this skin belonged to had to die in order to provide us with this skin. God wanted His people to understand how terrible sin is to God and that right punishment for sin is death. Abel understood this and trusted God. Abel brought a right offering to God in order for his sin to be covered. (**Display** the **LAMB** visual.) This was also true of Noah. He trusted God to cover his sin through bringing God a right offering just like Abel had done.

But what about Abraham; was he also a sinner? Did he also need to trust God for the covering of his sin?

Explain that Abraham also knew that he was a sinner just like his ancestors, Adam and Eve. Abraham also needed his sin covered and knew that he must trust God and bring Him a right offering, just as Abel and Noah had done.

Today we will continue the story of how God kept His promise to Abraham and also about a special offering that Abraham brought to God.

Tell the children that before you begin today's Bible story, you have two clues to show them. Each represents a clue picture that will be revealed on our poster and found in verses you will be reading. However, each word is scrambled—the letters are in the wrong order. **Display CLUE SCRAMBLE 1** and **2** for a few moments and then put them down again.

Read **Genesis 22:1-10** to the children. Read through the text without comment or questions. Be as expressive as possible. At verse 10, pick up the knife and hold it up,

tip down, as if you are about to thrust it downward. Stop at this point and tell the children that it is now time for the second test. (You will read the questions and verify the children's answers this time.)

TEST 2:

Question 1: Who was the child of promise given to Abraham and Sarah by God?

Answer 1: Isaac

Question 2: Which son of Abraham did God promise to establish an everlasting covenant with?

Answer 2: Isaac

Question 3: What did God command Abraham to do with Isaac?

Answer 3: Kill him as an offering to God.

Question 4: Did Abraham really love Isaac?

Answer 4: Yes.

Question 5: What kind of offering had Abel given to God as an offering for sin?

Answer 5: A lamb

Question 6: Did Abraham ask God *why* He wanted Abraham to kill Isaac as an offering?

Answer 6: No

Question 7: Did Abraham argue with God?

Answer 7: No

Question 8: What three things did Abraham and Isaac take with them up the mountain?

Answer 8: The wood, the fire, and a knife

Question 9: What question did Isaac ask his father?

Answer 9: Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?

Question 10: Did Abraham really intend to kill his one and only son whom he loved?

Answer 10: YES!

Ask the children to stop and think for a moment. What *seems* wrong with God's command? Should Abraham really obey this command? Use the following illustration to help answer this question:

Illustration: Choose a child to come up to the front. Tell him that you have a pretend scenario to act out. What if you were to give him \$10 (or \$20) and told him to go buy himself a nice present? (Hand him the money.) Next, hand him the box of matches and tell him to burn the money. Does this second command seem strange? Why? [It seems to contradict the first command.] Take the matches and money and have the child return to his seat.

Explain that God had told Abraham two very important things that seemed to contradict each other also—they seemed like opposites. **Display GOD'S PROMISE** and read:

I will establish My covenant with [Isaac] as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. (Genesis 17:19b)

Point out that God promised Abraham that Isaac would be the son who would inherit the land and have offspring (children) through whom God would bless the whole world. This was the covenant agreement God had made. He promised that this covenant with Isaac would last forever. In order to do this, Isaac must live, get married, and have children. But then God told Abraham to kill Isaac. **Display** the **ISAAC** and **GOD'S PROMISE** visual. What will happen if Isaac is killed? Take the scissors and cut through the **ISAAC** sign horizontally so that the **GOD'S PROMISE** visual falls to the floor.

What was God doing?

Have the children open their Bibles to **Genesis 22:1** to read the verse that comes before God told Abraham to take Isaac and offer him as a burnt offering:

...God tested Abraham.

What is a test? Why would God give Abraham a test?

Illustration:

Suppose you were really hungry and said something like, "I'm so hungry, I could eat an elephant!" Is there a test that I could give you to prove whether or not what you said was really true? [Give you a whole elephant to eat.]

Point out that in a similar way, God was giving Abraham a test. The questions were something like:

*Abraham, whom do you love more? The son I gave to you, or Me?
Abraham, how much do you really trust Me to keep My promise?
Abraham, do you believe that I will decide what is true and right?
Abraham, will you obey Me in everything? Even if it means killing your son?*

Did Abraham pass the test God gave to him?

Begin by reading from **Genesis 22:10** again while holding the knife. Then choose children to read verses 11-13. After the children have finished reading, ask them if Abraham had passed the test. Did he fully intend to obey God? [Yes.] How did God respond? [By sparing Isaac and providing a ram (a male lamb) to kill in his place.]

How was Abraham able to do such a hard thing? How was he able to look at his son, whom he loved so much—the son given to him by God when he and Sarah were too old to have children; the son of God's promise—and hold the knife over him, ready to kill him?

Have a **Sword Drill** with **Hebrews 11:17-19a**:

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead.

How was Abraham able to do such a hard thing? By faith! What did he truly believe that God was able to do? [Raise Isaac from the dead.] So he obeyed God—trusting that God would always keep His promise no matter how strange and difficult His command was.

Point out that it is important for us to see Abraham's example of faith and want to be like him—trusting God completely, believing that God will always keep His promises. But there is much more to this story than the faith of Abraham because in this story there are two very important clues that have something to do with Jesus and His death on the cross. **Display CLUE SCRAMBLE 1** and **2** again. Have the children unscrambled the clues.

Display Bible Clue Card #12 and **#13**. Choose two children to come up and insert the cards behind the red paper of the **JESUS IS THE KEY** visual to reveal:

*Scripture: Genesis 22:2
Clue under Window # 28*

*Scripture: Genesis 22:8
Clue under Window # 31*

Choose a child to read **Genesis 22:2** while you hold up **CLUE SCRAMBLE 1**. Do the children see three words in this verse that would match the letters in the scramble? Open Window #28 to reveal: **ONE LOVED SON**.

Choose a child to read **Genesis 22:8** while you hold up **CLUE SCRAMBLE 2**. Do the children see three words in this verse that would match the letters in the scramble? Open Window #31 to reveal: **GOD WILL PROVIDE THE LAMB**.

Application

- Have the children turn to **Hebrews 11:17-19**. Read through the verses carefully and discuss each verse. Before God tested Abraham by commanding him to offer Isaac, what things had Abraham SEEN God do in his life? Had God proven Himself to be faithful in everything? Had God proven Himself to be good? Had God proven Himself to be almighty? Do you think that helped Abraham to have faith in this situation? Give the children an example of how someone is proven to be trustworthy: *For example, do you wonder if your parents will feed you today? Why not?*

Point out that trust in something is dependent on its trustworthiness. Some people trust in the wrong things. *For example, what if Hagar had told Abraham to offer Isaac? Would she have been trustworthy in this situation? But who had commanded Abraham to do it? Do you sometimes place your trust in the wrong kinds of things? Why? Do you trust God in every situation? What about trusting Him with things that are hard to understand and commands that are hard to do? Can you give an example? Can you think of any verses (especially promises of God) that can remind you to trust God in every situation?*

- **WORKBOOK**—Have the children turn to Lesson 10 in their workbooks. Have them write today's clues in the notebook section. Have the children look at the picture on their workbook page. To help the children understand how much Abraham must have loved Isaac, ask them to try to use words or comparisons to express how much they treasure their parents. Is this hard to do? Why? Point out that sometimes the love we have for someone is beyond words to express. In what ways could someone prove that they loved their mom and dad more than their dog? More than their friends? Point out that part of the test of Abraham was in proving whom he loved most—God or Isaac? Also, did Abraham trust God in *everything*? What did Abraham's actions show? Why is this right? Have the children turn to **Hebrews 11:17-19** in their Bibles and fill in the missing words on their workbook page.
- Explain that the walk to Moriah took Abraham and Isaac three days—three whole days for Abraham to think about what God had commanded him to do. What do you think that Abraham might have been thinking about during that time? Do you think that he might have recalled God's faithfulness and goodness? Read **Genesis 22:5**. What hint does this verse give that Abraham believed God would somehow spare Isaac? Read verse 8. What hint does this verse give that Abraham believed God would somehow spare Isaac? What do we call this kind of belief? Review **Hebrews 11:1**.
- Ask the children if they know what the word substitute means. For example, suppose your mom needs brown sugar for a cookie recipe but she doesn't have any brown sugar. But the recipe says that you can substitute molasses and white sugar for the brown sugar. What does that mean? [You can use the white sugar and molasses in place of the brown sugar.] (Or use the example of a substitute teacher.) Point out that in today's story there was also an example of a substitute. What was it? [Abraham was given a ram (a male lamb) to offer in the place of Isaac.] How do you think Abraham felt about that substitute? Did he have to go out looking for it? Why not? Read **Genesis 22:14** to see what Abraham named the place where this substitute took place. *Has God provided you with everything that you need in order to be happy? Can you give me*

some examples of this? What about a substitute for your sin?

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