July 6-7, 2013

Abraham and Isaac

Kids will identify what this story reveals about God’s love for us

Genesis 22 (Adventure Bible, pg. 24)

Today’s story is tough: it’s about the time God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Read Genesis 22:1-17 and the large group script ahead of time. Ask God to prepare you to answer kids’ questions. And remember to emphasize the fact that God gave up his only Son…for us.

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Hang out with kids (10 minutes): Ask kids about their week. Get kids into groups and play games together.

Large Group (30 minutes): Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group. And don’t be afraid to redirect kids who aren’t!

Small Group (20-30 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you all have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

When you move from one activity to the next, set kids up for success—tell them what you expect from a good audience in Large Group, and how to participate well in Small Group.

As kids leave, encourage them to share the part of the story they drew. (hopefully, they’ll end up sharing the whole thing!)
goal: to help kids process through what different people might have felt at different parts of the story and ultimately understand how God feels about us

why? This story is tough to understand in today’s society. But it reveals just how deeply God loves us and wants a relationship with us.

tip: If kids ask a tough question, don’t be afraid to say you don’t know. Encourage them to talk to God about it on their own!

connect
1. Share your name and one word to describe the best part of your week. (If you’ve already connected before large group, move directly to question #2.)
2. Was anything in today’s story confusing or surprising?

review
• Give each kid a piece of paper
• Each kid is in charge of drawing ONE part of the story
• Look up Genesis 22:1-17 (Pg.24-25 NIV Adventure Bible)
• Split it into verses per kid. For instance, if you have 10 kids, each kid will draw either 1 or 2 verses.
• Read the verses out loud, stopping after each kid’s “part” to make sure they get it. For instance, read the first 2 verses and say something like, “Draw Abraham responding to a voice from God. Think about how he might have looked!”
• Lay out all the papers and review the story, with each kid telling their part. (They can keep drawing if some want to go into more detail.)

dig deeper
1. How do you think Abraham felt when God asked him to give up his only son?
2. How do you think Isaac felt?
3. Isaac let his dad tie him up. Do you think he was willing to be the sacrifice? Why or why not?
4. How do you think God felt when he gave up his only son for us?
5. What can we learn about God from this story? (He wants us to obey him and love him more than anything; He also loves us and provided a substitute so Abraham didn’t have to give up his only son)

(continued on the next page)
6. Have kids point out:
   a. What’s your least favorite part of this story? Why?
   b. What’s your favorite part of this story? Why?

7. Why do you think God was willing to give up his only son for us?
   a. Remind kids of today’s verse: John 3:16: **John 3:16 God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.** (God wants to be with us forever!)

*Pray with the kids and thank God that he always does what he says he will do!

*Extra time? Mix up all the pictures. See how fast kids can remember the story and put them back in order!*
Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids’ Club. It’s great to see you here. We’ve been talking about how God planned a Great Rescue! And long before the Rescuer arrived, God began preparing us for him. He started by building a family to send the rescuer through.

REVIEW
God started his family through a guy named Abraham and his wife, Sarah. But when he started his family through them, they didn’t have any kids. So God promised to give them a son…but they had to wait a loooong time for God to fulfill his promise. Before we get started today, let’s watch a video of some kids retelling this story.

Video: KBS / Abraham and Sarah

Wow, finally, God’s family began! Abraham and Sarah had Isaac…who had two kids…who had more kids…who had more kids…and on and on until one day Jesus, the Rescuer, was born!

Today, we’re going to hear a story about Abraham after Isaac was born.

INTRO GAME: GIVING THINGS UP
But first, we’re going to play a little game. Look around the room and find 3 signs: (point for kids) ATHLETE, SOLDIER, and MUSICIAN. Raise your hand if you can’t find one of them. (Let kids respond.)

Athletes, soldiers and musicians have all had to give things up. Here’s how the game works: I’m going to show you a couple of pictures of something that people sometimes choose to give up. Decide if an athlete, soldier or musician would have to give it up. If they would, walk over and stand under the sign of the group that would have to give it up. I might say something that two or all of them would have to give up. If I do, stand under whichever sign you want. Ready?
1. Junk food. *(Show picture of junk food and let kids walk to “athlete” or “soldier.”)* Yep, athletes and soldiers have to be healthy to do their jobs well. Sometimes that means giving up junk food. But an athlete loves playing their sport more than eating whatever he or she wants.

2. How about time playing video games or watching TV? *(Show picture of gamer and let kids walk to any of the three.)* Yes, any of these have to give up time playing video games or watching TV in order to practice or train. (Even in the photo, a person is playing the guitar while the others play video games.) But that’s okay, because they love being good at their sport, fighting for their country, or playing good music better than playing video games or watching TV.

3. Next, who had to give up sleeping in? *(Show picture of sleeping in and let kids walk to soldier or athlete.)* Yes, many soldiers and athletes have to wake up early and start training. Not every day maybe, but a lot! They believe training is more important than sleeping in.

Great job! Go ahead and sit back down. (Let kids sit.) Are there any other things that athletes, musicians, or soldiers choose to give up? (Let 3-5 kids share. *In your responses, be mindful of the fact that some kids may have family members in armed services.*) Great job!

And they are willing to give these things up because they believe playing their sport or fighting for their country or playing good music are the most important things they can do.

**ABRAHAM LOVED GOD MORE THAN ISAAC**

In our story today, Abraham is asked to give up what he loves for something he loves even more. Now, what or who do you think Abraham REALLY loved? (Let kids say: Isaac. If they need a hint, say: WHO did Abraham wait for, for many years?) Yes, Abraham really loved Isaac.

But do you think there’s anything or anyone Abraham loved MORE than Isaac? (Let kids say: God) Actually, Abraham loved God more than Isaac. And he showed us that in today’s story. We’re going to watch a video of that story. As we watch, see if you can figure out how we know that Abraham loved God more than Isaac.

*Video: Jesus Storybook Bible / The Present*

What an amazing story! How do we know Abraham loved God more than Isaac? (Let kids say: he was willing to give up Isaac). Yes, he was willing to give up his only son. But then God provided a ram to die, so Isaac didn’t have to. The ram was a substitute for Isaac.

**THIS STORY FORESHADOWS GOD’S LOVE FOR US**

What’s really special about this story is that it is like a preview of God’s Rescue. God sent his only son, Jesus, to be our rescuer. Abraham showed how much he loved God by being willing to give up his only son for God. And later, God showed us how much he loves us by giving up his only Son….for us!
A guy named John wrote about this when he wrote the book of John in the Bible. John 3:16 says:

**SLIDE: John 3:16 God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.**

God sent Jesus to take the punishment of death that we deserve. But because Jesus came back to life, he will one day re-create a perfect world—and everyone who follows him gets to live in it with God forever!

**WORSHIP**
Let’s worship God together and thank him for loving us and sending Jesus to rescue us! Through singing, let’s tell him we love him back.

*Music Video: Radio (kids can sit and watch or stand and sing)*
*(Optional) Song: Jesus Loves Me (lyrics and hand motions are on the video)*

**PRAY**
Ask somebody to come and thank God that he loved us enough to send his only son to rescue us.
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PREP needs

small group supplies

Adventure Bible (p. 24)
Markers
1 piece of plain paper per kid

large group supplies

- 3 pieces of paper with one of the following words printed on each: SOLDIER, ATHLETE, MUSICIAN
- Tape (place a roll in each bin, so presenters can tape them up before large group begins, and take them down immediately following)

a/v needs

1. Video: KBS / Abraham and Sarah
2. Image: junk food (jpeg in curriculum folder)
3. Image: video gamer (jpeg in curriculum folder)
4. Image: sleeping in (jpeg in curriculum folder)
5. Video: Jesus Storybook Bible / The Present
6. SLIDE: John 3:16 God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.
7. Music Video: Radio
8. Song: Jesus Loves Me (version with hand motions and lyrics on screen)

special room set-up

None

connect questions

Tell me about Abraham and Isaac. How did God show his love for us?

parent page

In today’s story, God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. Abraham was willing, but at the last minute, God provided a ram to sacrifice instead. This story reminds us that God wants us to trust him completely. But it also reminds us that God loves us beyond what we can imagine. After all, He really did give up his only son, Jesus, so that he can be close to us! Ask your kid about it. You can also read this story together in Genesis 22 in the Bible.