



LESSON 10

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: God fulfills impossible promises. God always provides the sacrifice.

Bible Character(s): Abraham, Isaac

Scripture Reference: Genesis 17, 21-22



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read Genesis 22:1-19. God had established a covenant with Abraham to make him the father of many nations, although Abraham and his wife Sarah were without child. God was faithful to provide Abraham and Sarah with a child, a son, and they loved him very much. However, when put to the test of faith by God, Abraham was ready to sacrifice the thing he valued most, his only son Isaac. Despite the fact that Isaac's death would seemingly contradict God's promise to Abraham, his trust in God's sovereignty and faithfulness outweighed his love for Isaac.

Ask God to reveal what you place too much value and hope in. What areas of your life do you tend to worship creation (idols) instead of worshiping the Creator? Is it your job, money, friends, time, children, or something else? Do you truly believe and trust that God is enough? Do you trust in His sovereignty and faithfulness to provide all you need? Read John 3:16-17 and Ephesians 3:19-20. Our heavenly Father, like Abraham, did not hold back His only Son. He is powerful enough to do more than we can even ask for or imagine, and He has a plan for our lives to sanctify us so we can reflect His Gospel of grace to the world. Even though we cannot always understand what God is doing, we can trust and depend on Him, knowing that He is faithful to love us and provide all we need.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

It's Valuable to Me

Have campers draw a picture of something that is very valuable to them. Spend some time talking with them about what they would do if they were asked to give up that item. Ask them how it would make them feel.



BIG GROUP Time - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will continue studying in Genesis. We will study God's faithfulness to fulfill His promises. We will see God test Abraham's faith, and how God always provides the sacrifice.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group today? What did you think about those three people who walked up as the guy was trying to tell the Bible story today? (Allow responses.) What was most important to each of them? (Money, video game, self.)

Last week we talked about how everything we have was given to us by God. What happened to Lot? He was captured by a group of kings. How did Abram respond? Abram freed Lot and got back all of his things that were stolen. What happened when they returned home? The King of Sodom and Melchizedek, the King of Salem, were waiting to greet him. What did Melchizedek do? He blessed Abram, and gave the glory of Abram's victory to God. How did Abram respond? Abram knew that everything he had was God's and given to him by God. He responded by giving some of his things to Melchizedek out of worship for God. Abram trusted in God's faithfulness to provide and make him into a great nation rather than the things of the world.

Today, we are going to see how God keeps His promises. We will study about how we can trust in Him to give us everything we need.

God Fulfills His Promises



The purpose is to show the campers that God can fulfill even impossible promises.

Supplies:

Genesis 17:1-6 questions (1 per session)

Genesis 21:1-7 questions (1 per session)

Bibles

Divide the class into two groups (one camp counselor can go with each group if needed). Give one group Genesis 17:1-6 and the corresponding question worksheet, and give the other group Genesis 21:1-7 and the corresponding question worksheet. Each group should have at least one Bible. Tell

each group to look up and read their selected Bible passage, and then complete their worksheet before coming back together to share their findings.

Tie It Together



Let's look at Genesis 17:1-6 first. What did that group learn from that passage? (Allow responses.) God appeared to Abram when he was 99 years old and made a covenant, or promise, with Abram to give him more descendants than he could ever count. Then He changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means "father of many nations." Did Abraham have any children with his wife Sarah though? (No.) He was 99 years old and he and Sarah had no children. Do you think Abraham wondered whether God's promise would actually happen? (Allow responses.)

Let's go on to the other passage. What did that group learn from their passage? (Allow responses.) God did fulfill His promise. He gave Abraham and Sarah a son in their old age. That seems like a pretty impossible thing to do! But God is all-powerful and He can do things that seem impossible to us! Abraham and Sarah named their son Isaac, which means laughter, because it was funny to them that they really did have a baby at their age. They must have been very thankful for Isaac and loved him very much. Isaac was probably really special to Abraham since he was Abraham's son.

We are going to continue in Genesis to see how much more faithful God is with His promise to Abraham.

Let's begin in Genesis 22 [NLT].

Genesis 22:1-2

1 Some time later, God tested Abraham's faith. "Abraham!" God called.

"Yes," he replied. "Here I am."

2 "Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you."

God fulfilled His promise by giving Abraham and Sarah a son, but now He's asking Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Do you think God really wanted to kill Isaac? (Allow responses.) Why do you think God asked Abraham to do this? (Allow responses.) In verse one, it says, "God tested Abraham's faith." We know that Isaac was really special to Abraham and he loved Isaac very much. God wanted to test Abraham's faith to see if he had grown to love Isaac more than he loved God.

Abraham and Isaac traveled to the place that God told them to go, taking chopped wood for a fire for the burnt offering.

Let's continue in Genesis 22.

Genesis 22:6-8

6 So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together, 7 Isaac turned to Abraham and said, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"We have the fire and the wood," the boy said, "but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?"

8 "God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son," Abraham answered. And they both walked on together.

God asked Abraham to do something really difficult, and Abraham responded out of obedience. He simply obeyed what God told him to do with Isaac. When God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, He appeared to be asking Abraham to give up everything that was promised to him (descendants, nations). Do you think if you were in Abraham's shoes, you would be willing to obey God's command? (Allow responses.)

Let's continue with the story to see what happens.

Genesis 22:9-10

9 When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. 10 And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice.

Abraham was ready to surrender everything, even sacrifice his only son whom he loved so much, in order to obey God's command. He was holding the knife in the air about to sacrifice Isaac. It is thought that Isaac was around 25 years old at this time. So Isaac was old enough to understand what was going on and could have resisted Abraham by not allowing himself to be tied up and placed on the altar. How do you think Isaac felt? (Allow responses.) He may have been really terrified, but we see his trust in his father Abraham and his willingness to be obedient to Abraham, just as Abraham was willing to be obedient to God.

I Don't Understand, But I'll Trust You



The purpose is to help the campers relate to situations where they need to trust God and obey immediately even when they don't understand what is happening.

Supplies:

Situations guide (1 per bin)

Read through the situations with your campers. Discuss why you wouldn't understand what you are being asked to do, but how important it is to trust, anyway.

Tie It Together



Can you think of other situations where you needed to obey when it didn't really make sense to you at first? (Allow responses.) Sometimes we have to trust our parents and teachers without asking questions because they know more than we do.

Is it always easy to trust and obey without asking questions? (Allow responses.) No, sometimes it is really hard because it does not make sense. But just like Abraham trusted God, we can choose to trust those people in authority over us.

Let's continue on with the story and see what happened to Isaac.

Genesis 22:11-14

11 At that moment the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Yes," Abraham replied. "Here I am!"

12 "Don't lay a hand on the boy!" the angel said. "Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son."

13 Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. 14 Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means "the Lord will provide"). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

How was God faithful to provide? (Allow responses.) God stopped Abraham from sacrificing Isaac. Why did He do this? (Allow responses.) Because God was testing Abraham's faith in Him. Abraham showed his trust and faith in God by obeying God's commands and being willing to sacrifice Isaac. He loved God more than he loved Isaac. God saved Isaac and then provided a ram for the sacrifice.

In the same way, God has already provided the sacrifice for us through His Son Jesus. Jesus paid the punishment for our sin so that we can live eternally with Him, if we choose to believe and trust in Him.

Genesis 22:15-19

15 Then the angel of the Lord called again to Abraham from heaven. 16 "This is what the Lord says: Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by my own name that 17 I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies. 18 And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me."

19 Then they returned to the servants and traveled back to Beersheba, where Abraham continued to live.

Abraham probably did not understand why God would want him to sacrifice Isaac, but he trusted that God's plan was bigger than what he could understand. He had faith that God would provide. Abraham showed amazing faith and obedience to God. We can trust God with our life, even when things do not make sense because God desires to give us a better life than we could give ourselves.

Hebrews 11:17-19

17 It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, 18 even though God had told him, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted." 19 Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead.

Abraham remembered God's promise to him and had faith that even if he did sacrifice Isaac, God had the power to bring him back from the dead in order to fulfill His promise. He trusted in what God had told him, and responded in obedience. Abraham recognized that when we have everything except God, we really do not have anything at all; and when we have nothing except God, we have everything. Are you willing to surrender anything and everything to God? What is standing in your way?

Wrapping Up

God demanded of Abraham no less than He Himself was willing to do when He sent His Son, Jesus, to be sacrificed on the cross. God loved us so much that He gave up His one and only Son to pay the punishment for our sin in order for us to live eternally with Him. If we have a God who was willing to give up His only Son, who He loved very much, what is keeping you from putting your faith in Him and trusting Him with your life?

Trust God



The purpose of this activity is to help the campers understand what it means to trust.

Supplies:

Bandana (1 per bin)

Give each camper an opportunity to take part in this activity. One by one, the camp counselor will blindfold each camper and take him or her through a game of trust. The camp counselor will tell the camper where to walk around the room (how many steps to take, which way to turn, etc) and make it up for each camper. End with the camper standing in front of you, back toward you, and tell him/her to fall back into your arms where you will catch them.

Tie It Together



Remember how we talked about trust in the last activity? In this game, you had to trust me with what I told you to do. You had to trust that I would not lead you into a wall or the table, and then you had to trust that I would catch you when you fell back into my arms. Each of you did a good job of trusting me because you did not know exactly what was going to happen. God wants each of us to trust Him with everything in our life. He wants us to have faith that He will give us everything we need, and He will help us walk through life. Abraham trusted God with everything, even his only son who God had given him to fulfill the promise made to him. God had a bigger plan than what Abraham could see, and Abraham obeyed God.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Thank God for His faithfulness to provide. Ask Him to help us trust in His sovereignty and plan for our lives.



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