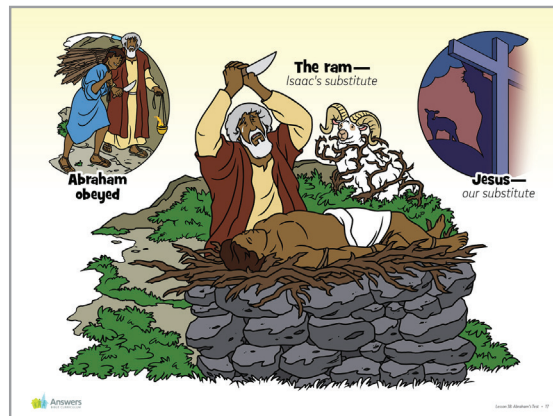


Lesson 38 Abraham's Test

Abraham loved God more than he loved his promised child, Isaac.



Q K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to the Lesson 36 Flip Chart. We've been talking a lot about Abraham. He was a real person who lived many years ago.

- What did God promise about the stars and Abraham's descendants, or family? *God would give him a son and descendants as numerous as the stars.*

That's right. God promised to give him a son, and his family would grow and grow. But Abraham and his wife, Sarah, got impatient and tried to help God keep His promise. And Abraham had a son named Ishmael.

- Was Ishmael the son God had promised? *No.*
- Refer to Lesson 37 Flip Chart. Who was the son God promised to Abraham and Sarah? *Isaac.*

Right! Isaac was the son God gave to Sarah and Abraham when they were very old. Isaac was the one God chose to carry on the promises He had made.

- Today, we will learn some more about Abraham. But this time, our lesson has to do with a test. What is a test? Can someone explain a test? *Allow answers.*

A test could simply be doing something to show how much you know or what you can do. We're going to take a test right now. Everybody stand up. This test will show me how well you can follow what I do. Ready? Copy what I do. *Mix some easy motions with some more difficult ones, such as hopping on one foot, clapping hands over your head, patting head, touching toes, rubbing tummy and patting head, etc.*

Good job! Everyone can sit down now. Do you think you all passed the test? You did pretty well. In

our lesson today, we're going to read about a really tough test God gave to Abraham. Let's see how he did with his test!

Abraham's Test

Remember that Abraham's son, Isaac, was a special child—the son God promised. Abraham knew that the Lord had promised to give him so many descendants it would be hard to count them all—just like the stars!

- So what was the test God gave to Abraham? Well, let's find out. Who has the Bible? Please bring it up. *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note.*

Genesis 22:1–2

I'm going to read some verses from Genesis chapter 22. Listen carefully to find out what Abraham's test was! *Read Genesis 22:1–2.*

Abraham was supposed to go to a place called Moriah and take Isaac with him.

- What was Abraham supposed to do with Isaac? *Offer him as a burnt offering.*

What?! Do you understand what that means, to “offer” him? It means Abraham was supposed to put his son on the altar and kill him just like he would do with a lamb for a sacrifice.

This was a strange command for God to give, wasn't it? But remember, verse 1 tells us this was a test for Abraham. *Reread Genesis 22:1.*

So WE know that God was testing Abraham, but Abraham didn't know that!

Genesis 22:3

What did Abraham do? Listen for the answer in verse 3. *Read Genesis 22:3.*

- Did Abraham say, “No way! I'm not doing that”? *No, he obeyed!*

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. Abraham obeyed immediately. He got up early, saddled his donkey, took two servants and Isaac, chopped some wood for the fire, and went to Moriah.

Genesis 22:7–8

When they got near the mountain in Moriah, Isaac asked his father a question. Listen to this. *Read Genesis 22:7–8.*

- What did Isaac ask Abraham? *Where is the lamb for the offering?*

- What was Abraham's answer? *God will provide the lamb for the burnt offering.*

Wow! Abraham was trusting that God would provide the offering. Abraham had great faith, didn't he? They walked up the mountain to the place where he had probably sacrificed before. But this time, things were different. God was testing Abraham to see if he would obey—even if it meant sacrificing the son he loved so much!

Refer to the Flip Chart. Abraham had offered sacrifices to God before. When he would put a lamb or bull on the altar, it would have to be killed and then the fire started, and the sacrifice would be burned up. This showed that he loved and worshipped God. But this time was very different. Instead of a lamb, Abraham had to put his son Isaac on the altar and kill him!

Abraham was standing over his son with the knife, ready to obey God and offer his son as a sacrifice. But then something happened. The angel of the Lord spoke to Abraham and said, “Do not lay a hand on the boy.”

Phew! Just in time! God stopped Abraham just before the knife came down. Abraham had passed the test! God saw that Abraham feared Him and would obey Him no matter what. Abraham showed that God was more important to him than even his son, Isaac.

Genesis 22:13

But we're not finished yet. Let's see what happened next! *Read Genesis 22:13.*

- Refer to the Flip Chart. What appeared nearby? *A ram appeared, caught in a thicket by its horns.*

- What's a ram? *A ram is a male, or boy, sheep.*

- So this sheep was caught in a bush nearby. His horns were tangled in the branches. Hmm. What could they do with this ram? *Allow guesses.*

They could substitute the ram for Isaac on the altar!

- What does that word “substitute” mean? *Allow discussion.*

Substitute means to take the place of something. Have you ever had a substitute teacher at school? If your regular teacher gets sick, she needs to have

someone take her place, right? The person who takes her place is a substitute.

Don't you think Abraham and Isaac were excited to see that ram? Abraham sacrificed the ram in Isaac's place as an offering to God.

- What perfect timing! Who provided the ram for Abraham to sacrifice as a substitute for Isaac? *God.*

- Right. Now think back to the question Isaac asked earlier. He asked where the lamb for the sacrifice was. What did Abraham say? *Genesis 22:8. God would provide the lamb.*

Yes! Abraham had faith that God would provide what was needed. Abraham trusted God and obeyed.

Jesus Is the Substitute for Sinners

God didn't let Isaac die, did He? God did something here that is really important to understand. He provided a substitute for Isaac.

- What was that substitute? *A ram.*

Right. In this test, Abraham was going to sacrifice Isaac, and God stopped him. But a sacrifice still needed to be made, so God provided the ram so Isaac didn't have to die.

- God was giving us a picture of someone else who would be a sacrifice many years later. God would send someone who would be a substitute for sinners like us. Do you know who that was? *Jesus.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. If you said Jesus, you're right! In Bible times, people who worshipped God would bring a lamb and offer it as a sacrifice to God so their sins could be forgiven. In the Gospel of John, Jesus is called “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

Jesus, God's Son, came to earth as a person—like us. But He lived a life without any sin, and then He died a terrible death on the Cross. He died so that we can live—just like the ram died so that Isaac could live.

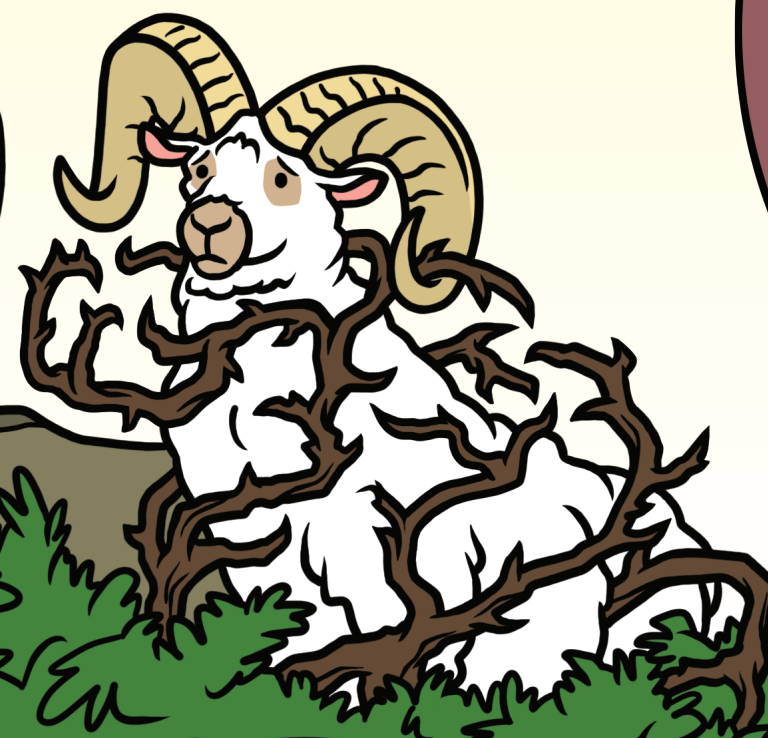
Jesus loves us that much! He was our substitute and paid for our sins when He died. And then He rose again to give new life to all who will turn away from their sins and put their faith in Jesus.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.



**Abraham
obeyed.**

The ram—
Isaac's substitute



Jesus—
our substitute

