

Bible Stories for Adults

The Offering of Isaac

Genesis 16, 21-22

Opening

Gathering: Tell of a time you were tested by God and how it helped you grow spiritually.

Today's Focus: To recognize that God calls us to be faithful even through trials and hardships and that He promises to bless us and build us up through such tests.

Key Verses: *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.* Hebrews 11:1

What does the Scripture say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son." Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman. Galatians 4:30-31

Opening Prayer

Lesson

The Child of the Covenant (*Genesis 17:17-21*)

What was the first part of God's promise to Abram?

Genesis 12:2-3

Did God mean that Abram would have lots of descendants?

Genesis 13:16

How did this part of the promise lead to doubt for Abram?

Genesis 15:2-3

Did God answer Abram's doubts?

Genesis 15:4-6

I Can Help (*Genesis 16*)

How did Abram try to help God with his promise after more years passed?

Genesis 16:1-2

How did Hagar feel about her part in this plan?

Genesis 16:3-4

How did Sarai deal with Hagar's attitude?

Genesis 16:5-6

Where did Hagar run to?

Genesis 16:7-9

What else did the angel have to say to Hagar?

Genesis 16:10-12

How did Hagar respond to the mixed blessing?

Genesis 16:13-16

God's Plan (*Genesis 17*)

Was Ishmael the child through whom God's covenant would be realized?

Genesis 17:1-2; 5, 15-16 (1-16)

Did Abraham understand this to be God's plan all along?

Genesis 17:17-21 (17-27)

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The Promise is Fulfilled (*Genesis 21:1-7*)

How old was Abraham when Isaac was born?

Genesis 21:1-5

Was this really a big deal since they lived longer back then (Abraham died at 175)?

Hebrews 11:11-12

Why was this child named Isaac (he laughs)?

Genesis 17:17; 18:12-15

How was the emphasis of this name changed when Isaac was born?

Genesis 21:6-7

The Promise is Threatened (*Genesis 21:8-13*)

With the Child of the Covenant now born, how was the promise still threatened?

Genesis 21:8-10

Did Abraham agree with Sarah's concern and request?

Genesis 21:11

How did he decide what to do?

Genesis 21:12-13

The Promise is Protected (*Genesis 21:14-21; 25:12-18*)

What did Abraham do to guarantee that Isaac would inherit his blessings?

Genesis 21:14

Did God protect Ishmael as He had promised?

Genesis 21:15-21

Do we know any more about what happened to Ishmael?

Genesis 25:7-9, 16-18 (7-18)

What is one story where we see Ishmael's descendants interacting with Isaac's descendants?

Genesis 37:23-27

Sacrifice the Covenant? (*Genesis 22:1-2*)

Now that God met the first part of His promise, what did He ask of Abraham?

Genesis 22:1-2

What is a sacrifice?

Funk & Wagnalls

What did God say to remind Abraham of what he would be sacrificing?

Genesis 22:2a

What had God asked Abram to sacrifice when He first called him?

Genesis 12:1

What was God effectively asking Abraham to sacrifice now?

Hebrews 11:17-18

This is Only a Test (*Genesis 22:1*)

Had God made this command to Abraham because He wanted a human sacrifice?

Deuteronomy 18:9-10a, 12

Why did He make this unbelievable command?

Genesis 22:1

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Why Does God Test? (*James 1:2-4*)

Why does God test His people?

1 Peter 1:6-7

How are we to respond to the difficulties of God's tests?

James 1:2-4

How does perseverance through difficulties make us more *mature, not lacking anything*?

Romans 5:3-5

Why should we rejoice when God tests us or allows hardship in our lives?

Hebrews 12:5-7, 11

What is the reward for those who persevere?

James 1:12

Does God Tempt? (*James 1:13-17*)

Does God tempt His people to test them?

James 1:13

Can temptations lead to growing in maturity and becoming more complete?

James 1:14-15

How do we know when we are being tested by God or tempted by Satan?

James 1:16-17

Abraham's Response (*Genesis 22:3-8*)

How long did it take Abraham to decide what to do?

Genesis 22:3a

What did Abraham believe would happen in Isaac's sacrifice?

Genesis 22:3-5

Why did Abraham tell his servants that he would return with Isaac?

Genesis 22:6-8

What did Abraham expect to happen?

Hebrews 11:19

Faith That Works (*Genesis 22:9-12*)

Did Abraham actually intend to complete the sacrifice?

Genesis 22:9-10

What did Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac prove?

Genesis 22:11-12

Didn't God know Abraham's faith? Why was this ordeal necessary?

James 2:21-22

How does Abraham's response shed light on Jesus' call to us, His followers?

Matthew 10:37-38

*It's not faith or works.
It's not faith and works.
It's faith that works.*

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God's Response to Abraham's Faithfulness (*Genesis 22:13-19*)

How did God provide the lamb as stated by Abraham's faith in Genesis 22:8?

Genesis 22:13-14

Notes: Abraham named the place Jehovah Jireh - *The Lord will provide*

Location was near city of Salem - *Peace*

Both names were later combined into the name Jerusalem - *The Lord will provide peace*

How did God respond to Abraham's demonstration of faithfulness?

Genesis 22:15-18

What did God do here that He never repeated with the patriarchs?

Hebrews 6:13-15

Why is it important for us that God did this?

Hebrews 6:16-19a

Isaac - A Preview of Jesus

Isaac

Genesis 18:12-14

Genesis 17:19

Genesis 22:2

Genesis 22:2

Genesis 22:2, 2 Chronicles 3:1

Genesis 22:3

Genesis 22:6

Genesis 22:9

Genesis 22:4

Genesis 22:13

Genesis 22:8

Jesus

Matthew 1:20

Hebrews 8:6

John 3:16

Matthew 3:17

Mark 15:22

John 12:14-15

John 19:17

Luke 22:42

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Romans 4:25

John 1:29

Closing Prayer

Response

1. Do I live my life as a child of slavery or as a child of freedom?
(*Genesis 16:8-12; 17:18-21; 21:9-10; Galatians 4:21-31; Romans 6; 1 Cor. 7:22-23; 1 Peter 2:16*)
2. Do I have the faith of Abraham to recognize God's voice and to obey Him?
(*Genesis 12:1, 4, 7; 13:14-18; 15:1, 9-10; 17:10, 23; 21:11-14; 22:1-3; 1 John 4:1-6; 5:1-5*)
3. Although God will not tempt me, how can I find His help when I am tempted? (*Genesis 4:7; Matthew 4:1-11; 6:13; Luke 22:31-32; 1 Cor. 10:13; James 1:13-17; 2 Peter 2:9; Rev. 3:10*)
4. What would I have trouble sacrificing for God? (*Genesis 4:3-5; 22:1-2, 12; Exodus 20:3; Joshua 24:14-16, 21-24; 1 Samuel 1:10-11, 27-28; Matthew 6:24; 10:37-39; John 21:15-17*)
5. What does it mean to me that I am a child of the covenant? (*Genesis 17:19; 21:12; 22:15-18; Romans 8:9-17; Galatians 3:6-9, 14, 26-29; 4:1-7; Hebrews 9:15; 11:17-19*)