



Preschool Ministry Curriculum for
July 10, 2016

Dear Teacher,

This week we continue our summer curriculum, which is following the theme and preaching from the Sanctuary service. Just to note, we are a few weeks ahead of the Sanctuary service in case there is any confusion. This summer we will look back at most of the characters we studied this past year. The point of each lesson will center on the journey each person was on and how they ultimately looked to Jesus “as the author and perfecter of our faith.”

This week’s lesson is a very hard lesson because of the nature of the content. When reading the story to younger ages, please see the teacher’s note in the “Story” section on Page 3 of this curriculum. And yet, this is a very important lesson as we see Abraham demonstrate true faith in God. Abraham’s obedience to God’s commands, Isaac meekly marching along, and the ram caught in the bushes points us back to Jesus and the Cross. Trust in God’s promises, even to the point of unimaginable suffering or the denial of something, is what Abraham shows us in this story; and it is ultimately what Jesus not only shows us, but gives us through His death and resurrection.

We encourage all classrooms to engage with the story from the options provided in class. Teachers, tell the story using any of the provided helps (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout). If you would like, read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use time in class to teach the Scripture Memory and the Catechism Questions.

Lesson: The Journey: Isaac

Lesson Objective: To communicate to children that God’s promises require faith especially since God’s promises do not happen immediately.

Scripture: Hebrews 11:17-19; Genesis 21:1-7; 22:1-18

Story: Vos Children’s Bible, Pages 26-28; Jesus Story Book Bible, Pages 60-69; Gospel Story Book Bible, Pages 28-29.

Teaching Points:

- To believe that God’s promises will come true is called faith.
- God chooses Abraham – we do not know why – to make a promise (covenant) with and God had a special purpose for him.
- God’s promise of a son to Abraham finally arrives and his name is Isaac.
- Abraham demonstrates true faith in God; we see this faith in his action; we call faith in action, obedience.
- God shows that He is faithful to His promises. God promised Abraham that his family would come through Isaac.
- God gives commands to His people, and He provides what His people need to obey those commands. In this story, God provides a ram for the sacrifice.
- Abraham shows his obedience to God; God shows His faithfulness to Abraham.
- The story of Abraham being tested by God points us to Jesus in many ways.
 - Abraham is like Jesus in this story because He was willing to forsake all things to obey God. Jesus left his home in heaven to bring people back to God; Jesus was obedient to the Father in this Great Rescue plan.
 - Isaac is like Jesus in this story because He was willing and obedient to his father’s commands, even if it meant death (for younger ages, instead of death use “something he did not like.”)
 - The ram is like Jesus in this story because it was innocent, yet at the right time, was the sacrifice needed. Jesus innocently died at the right time to bring sinners back to God (Rom. 5:6)

Preschool Ministry – Morning Overview

For the Sunday Schedule, please see “Sunday Schedule for Preschool” found in Handbook on the teacher’s table.

First Hour

Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5’s – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom’s: 162, 163, 121, 123, 124)
- 3’s/4’s – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom’s: 169, 168, 167, 166, 165, 164)

Craft: Abraham’s Bundle of Sticks

Supplies: Pretzel Sticks, Yarn

Instructions: Give each child a stack of pretzel sticks and yarn. Cut the yarn into shorter pieces (children can do this). Tie each piece around a bundle of 5-6 pretzel sticks.



Snack

Second Hour

Craft: Sheep Finger Puppet

Supplies: Cardstock sheep (head, feet, body), glue, crayons/markers (optional: cotton balls)

Instructions: Glue head and feet to body, color as desired (optional: glue on cotton balls), put fingers through holes to “walk” the sheep.



Story: The Journey: Issac

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: Tests sometimes can be very hard and not so fun. Maybe you have had a test before? Have you? Well our story today is about Abraham and a test; this test was to see if Abraham really trusted God and His promises. In today’s story we read that Abraham has to really believe in God’s promises, but you know what else we will discover in today’s story? We will see that God always keeps His promises too.
3. **TELL** the Story. When applicable or desired, use the Vos Children’s Bible, the Jesus StoryBook Bible, the Beginner’s Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

Singing

Scripture Memory (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Catechism Questions (1-10)

Optional Activities

Scripture

Hebrews 11:17-19

It was by faith that Abraham offered his son Isaac as a sacrifice. God made the promises to Abraham. But God tested him. And Abraham was ready to offer his own son as a sacrifice. God had said, “The descendants I promised you will be from Isaac.” Abraham believed that God could raise the dead. And really, it was as if Abraham got Isaac back from death.

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- Who gave Abraham the test?
- What did God want Abraham to do?
- What did Abraham do?
- What did God put in the bushes so that Abraham and Isaac could give an offering to Him?

Questions for Older Children:

- Why did God give Abraham such a hard test?
- How did God keep His promise in the story?

Scripture Memory for Summer:

2 and 3 year olds:

“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus.” Hebrews 12:1-2

4 and 5 year olds:

“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.” Hebrews 12:1-2

Catechism Questions:

- Question 1 – Who made you? *God*
- Question 2 – What else did God make? *God made all things.*
- Question 3 – Why did God make you and all things? *For his own glory.*
- Question 4 – How can you glorify God? *By loving him and doing what he commands.*
- Question 5 – Why are you to glorify God? *Because he made me and takes care of me.*
- Question 6 – Is there more than one true God? *No. There is only one true God.*
- Question 7 – In how many persons does this One God exist? *In three persons.*
- Question 8 – Who are they? *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*
- Question 9 – What is God? *God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.*
- Question 10 – Where is God? *God is everywhere.*

Story

NB: Teacher’s Note

For 2 year olds, refer to the sacrifice as “God told Abraham to give Isaac to Him.”

For the older children – You may choose to be more specific. This story leaves out the “He bound his son Isaac...then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.” If you do choose to tell this aspect, please be sure to highlight, many times, that God meant this as a “test” (Gen. 22:1). He never intended for Abraham to kill his son and He has never required any human sacrifice.

The Journey

Let us continue on our journey together. Remember, we won’t actually go to a far land or country. And we won’t have to pack up our suitcases or food, get in a car or plane, or travel to some place across the world. Nope, we will stay right here! This journey is special. This journey takes us into the Old Testament and we get to see how people trusted in Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Today in our journey, we finally meet a person who was promised for a very long time, his name is Isaac. Yes, the same child that God promised to Abraham and Sarah! Our story takes an unexpected turn though. In our story we see God testing his servant Abraham. Will Abraham trust in God? Will Abraham believe that God’s promises always come true? Let’s find out!

God Gives Isaac

“He is here! He is here!” We could imagine Abraham and Sarah’s happiness at the arrival of their son. So happy that who God had promised them so many years ago and so many times over had finally arrived. Abraham held the baby in his arms and named him “Isaac” as the Lord commanded. Abraham and Sarah loved Isaac very much. It is hard to believe that God promised Isaac so long ago, and yet Abraham holds him at the ripe old age of 100.

Sarah thought back to the day she heard the promise from God about Isaac. She remembered what she did and how she laughed when the Lord promised her a son. She thought, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears about this will laugh over me." She could not believe that she was able to give Abraham a son at her age, she was close to a 100 years old too, but she did just as the Lord promised. Now she knew that nothing was too hard for God.

God speaks to Abraham

One day God called Abraham. Abraham knew God's voice. He had heard Him before, "Abraham." "Here I am," he said. "You must take your only son Isaac, whom you love so much, go to the land of Moriah and there on the mountain I want you to give Isaac back to Me as an offering."

Now I'm sure Abraham didn't understand at all why God would want him to give Isaac back. Abraham and Sarah had waited so long for a baby. God had given Isaac to them. God also had promised that Isaac would begin a big family (with as many people as the stars, remember?). And that family would be a blessing to the whole world. But now God was asking Abraham to do something that was very, very hard.

But Abraham knew that God loved him. Abraham knew that God loved Isaac and Abraham knew that God only wanted the very best for them both. And so Abraham decided that he would obey God. Yes, even though he didn't understand why God was asking him to do such a hard thing as giving his sweet Isaac back to the Lord. Yes, Abraham would obey!

To The Top of the Mountain

The Bible says Abraham didn't wait, but he got up early the next morning and put a saddle on his donkey. He took two young servant men with him and Isaac his son. Abraham also cut enough wood to make an altar for the offering he would give to the Lord. For three days Abraham and Isaac and the two men traveled. They had to go a long distance. God had told them where to go and it was pretty far away. All the time they were traveling, I bet Abraham was so sad as he thought how God had asked him to give Isaac back. But he kept moving forward toward the place God had said. Abraham had heard God's voice and He would obey.

The Sacrifice

Finally, on the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the mountain way in the distance. He said to his two servants, "Stay here with the donkey while Isaac and I go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." Then Abraham took the wood for the offering and placed it on Isaac's shoulders. Isaac carried the heavy wood like this (show how Isaac would have carried it – bulky and placing it on one's shoulder).

Now Isaac knew how to build the altar. He had probably watched his father Abraham offer sacrifices to the Lord before. He knew how to make a fire, but Isaac didn't know where the animal was that they would use as an offering.

As the two of them walked on together, Isaac asked Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "Where is the lamb for the offering?" Isaac asked. Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the offering, my son." And the two of them went on together toward the mountain.

All the time Abraham must have wondered why God would ask him to give Isaac back. But Abraham would obey. He would trust that God loved him and Isaac and he would trust that God would only do what is right. Finally they got to the place where God had told Abraham to go. Abraham built an altar there. First he arranged the wood he had cut and Isaac had carried. Then Abraham placed Isaac on the altar to give him back to the lord. Isaac would be the offering. Abraham would do just what God had said. He would give his son Isaac who he loved so much back to God just as God had asked.

God Speaks Again

But God was looking down at Abraham. He saw that Abraham would obey. God saw that Abraham loved Him even more than his son Isaac. Oh, but God was pleased! "Abraham! Abraham!" It was God's voice again! Abraham stopped.

He listened to God's voice, "Don't do anything to Isaac! Now I know that you love Me more than anything or anyone else. For you would have even given me your only son."

God Provides

Then Abraham looked up and there in the thick bushes was a ram. A ram is a boy sheep that has long horns that are curved. Why the ram was caught by his horns in the bushes and he was stuck we don't know, but Abraham knew that the Lord had placed the ram there. Abraham would offer that ram to God instead of his son Isaac. God had provided the ram for the offering.

The Bible says Abraham gave that place on the mountain a special name. It was the place where he had built an altar to give Isaac back to God, but instead, God had provided a ram. God had provided the only sacrifice that was needed. Abraham called it, "the Lord will provide."

Then Abraham heard God's words again. "Because you have done this and were willing to give me even your son who you love so much, I will surely bless you, Abraham, I will make your children and their children as many as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. All nations on the whole earth will be blessed because you have obeyed me." Then the Bible says Abraham returned to his servants, and with Isaac they all went home.

True Faith

Abraham had passed the test. He believed that no matter what, God would keep His promises. Abraham shows us what true faith is like: Abraham had confidence that nothing is impossible with God! Abraham believed God when God told him his descendants would come from Isaac. Abraham obeyed God knowing that God would keep His promises.