

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 3 – Lesson 3
The Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22:1-14)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The people we learn about in the Word do both good and evil things, just as we ourselves do.
- B. The Lord never tempts us. Temptation comes from our selfish desires. The Lord merely permits temptation to come when we make it necessary.
- C. Our first faith in the Lord is often mixed up with a lot of false ideas.
- D. The Lord will always give us the power to do right if we persist in obeying His commands as we are given to see them from the Word.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

- 1. We've been learning the story of Abraham. Abraham was a man who loved the Lord and wanted to obey Him.
- 2. The Lord had promised Abraham that his descendants— his children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren— would inherit the land of Canaan.
- 3. But Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were very old, older than many grandparents, and they had no children. How could their descendants inherit the land of Canaan— how could they even have descendants— if they had no son?
- 4. Finally the Lord gave them the son they had hoped for for so long. Isaac was born to them when Abraham was 100 years old! You can imagine how overjoyed Abraham and Sarah were when they were blessed with this miracle. They loved little Isaac very much.
- 5. But while Isaac was still a young boy, a strange idea came into Abraham's head. He was so grateful to the Lord for his son, Isaac that he felt he ought to prove how thankful he was, and he decided the best way to do this was to give up to the Lord his very dearest possession.
- 6. Let's read the story for today to find out what Abraham had in mind.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Read Gen. 22:1-14

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C. Ideas to Discuss

1. What was Abraham's dearest possession, the thing he loved most in all the world? (Isaac)
2. In those days people thought that in order to give something to the Lord they had to kill it and burn it upon an altar. What did Abraham plan to do with Isaac? (Offer him as a burnt offering upon an altar)
3. Who went with Abraham on his journey? (2 young men and Isaac)
4. Where did Abraham go to sacrifice Isaac? (To a mountain in the land of Moriah) How long did the journey take? (3 days)
5. Abraham had not told Isaac what he was planning to do. What did Isaac ask him father on the way up the mountain? ("Where is the lamb for a burnt offering?")
6. What was Abraham's answer? ("God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.")
7. When Abraham was about to kill Isaac, what stopped him? (The Angel of the Lord calling his name from heaven)
8. What did the Lord say? (paraphrased: Don't harm the boy. I know you fear God because you have not tried to keep your son from me.) What did Abraham find to make a burnt offering to the Lord, instead of Isaac? (A ram caught by its horns in a thicket)
9. What did Abraham call the place? (The-Lord-Will-Provide)

D. Further Ideas

1. The Lord was pleased with how hard Abraham tried to please Him, and the Lord was happy with Abraham for being willing to give Him his most precious possession— his son, Isaac.
2. Do you think the Lord would ever ask someone to kill his own son? (No, the Lord loves everyone dearly and would never ask us to harm anyone)
3. Abraham was a good man, and he wanted to show the Lord how thankful he was for his precious son, Isaac. Wanting to show thankfulness to the Lord is a good thing. But it was a mistake for Abraham to think he should offer Isaac as a burnt offering.
4. We all make mistakes, but if we're trying to do what's right, as Abraham thought he was, then the Lord can help us and can keep us from doing real harm, just as He kept Abraham from hurting Isaac.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "I pray Thee, Lord, to guide my ways," Hymnal #169
2. "Heavenly Father, Thou art near," Hymnal #158

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B. Activities

1. Discuss what are some things the Lord really does ask us to give up, or sacrifice. (Note: Point out that it does no harm to us nor to anyone else when we give up things we should; we are better off after this sort of "sacrifice" than we were before: e.g., bad habits.)

C. Project: Abraham and Isaac

1. Provide each child with the following for making clothespin dolls of Abraham and Isaac:
 - a. 2 clothespins
 - b. 2 stands
 - c. 2 pieces of cloth with neck slits
 - d. 2 pipe cleaners for arms
2. Each child will need in addition:
 - a. Small bunch of plain, flat toothpicks for wood for burnt offering
 - b. Small number of stones for altar
 - c. Styrofoam meat tray as base
3. Slide cloth over each doll's head and wrap a pipe cleaner around the middle (acts as a sort of sash to hold garment in place, as well as arms for the figure).
4. Place bundle of toothpicks on the Isaac figure's back and wrap pipe cleaner around once more to secure.
5. Build an altar of stones on the Styrofoam meat tray.
6. Have one or several children act out the scenario with their figures:
 - a. Abraham and Isaac climb the mountain together, Isaac carrying the wood.
 - b. Abraham builds an altar and lays the wood on it.
 - c. Isaac is placed upon the altar.
 - d. Angel of Lord calls Abraham from heaven.
 - e. Abraham looses Isaac from altar and offers a ram instead.
 - f. (Perhaps provide a small picture of a ram with horns photocopied on white paper for children to cut out and lay on altar after Isaac is set free.)

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Pictures illustrating today's story.
- B. Map of Holy Land (Mt. Moriah— much later became part of Jerusalem and was where Solomon built his temple)

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V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's Bible Study Notes, Vol. I, "The Sacrifice of Isaac," Genesis 22:1-14 (pp. 273-289).
- B. The Sower, Vol. I, "The Sacrifice of Isaac," pp. 98-102.