

LESSON 11

ABRAHAM SACRIFICES ISAAC

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Sacrifices and Offerings

We can trace the biblical practice of making sacrifices back to God's killing of an animal to provide coverings for Adam and Eve after their sin. God used the animal skins to cover Adam and Eve's nakedness, and His action also showed, symbolically, the covering of their sins. From this point, people seemed to have understood that God required blood sacrifice to cover sin, and they began to bring offerings.

The Burnt Offering

With the establishment of the Mosaic Law, a formal system of sacrificial offerings was put into effect. In the Law, God gave Moses detailed instructions for worship. When God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his one and only son, He told him to do it in the form of a burnt offering. There is no extant evidence as to how exactly Abraham sacrificed a burnt offering; however, according to Mosaic Law, the offering had to be skinned and cut up, and then burned. For Abraham to have been willing to do this to his only son was an act of great faith. God had promised that Isaac would be the father of nations, and yet God commanded that Isaac be slain before he had any children. Somehow, Abraham believed that God would bring him back to life (Heb 11:19). God had commanded, and Abraham obeyed.

Abraham's Act of Faith

- A. By faith, Abraham obeyed God
 - 1. He left his country (Heb 11:8).
 - 2. He sojourned in a foreign land (Heb 11:9-10).
 - 3. He offered his son Isaac (Heb 11:17).
 - 4. Abraham's faith was not a dead faith (Jas 2:20, 26), but a dynamic faith that expressed itself in obedience!
- B. By faith, we must obey God
 - 1. The gospel calls for "obedience to the faith" (Rom 1:5).
 - 2. We must "obey from the heart" (Rom 6:17).
 - 3. If we desire to have "the faith of Abraham," we must have a faith that works "through love" (Gal 5:6).

God Will Provide

God provided a male sheep for the sacrifice, just as Abraham had told Isaac that He would. To provide is "to see." Literally, it reads, "God will see for Himself the sheep."

God promises many times in the Scriptures that He will provide for His people. Matthew 6:33 teaches us that we should "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Likewise, Philippians 4:19 tells us that "God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

BIBLE TEXT

Genesis 21:1-7; 22:1-19

BIBLE TRUTHS

1. God calls us to give everything we have to Him and we must obey.
2. When we trust God, He will provide for every need we have. He is "the Lord who provides."

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To learn to give up the things that mean the most to us.
2. To learn to trust in God because God will provide.

MEMORY VERSE

"Faith without works is dead."

(James 2:26b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. We praise You, Lord, for gathering us here together to worship You. We know that when we do so, we please You. Help us to please You by being obedient to You and to our parents. We want to thank You for dying for us on the cross. How can we say "Thank You" in an adequate way? Help us to trust You, as your servant Abraham did, with the things most precious to us. We thank You for Your blessing of grace. May Your Spirit guide today's class as we learn more about obedience. Hallelujah! Amen.

In the wilderness after the exodus, God provided manna and clothing, protection and water (Deut 8:3; Neh 9:15). Psalm 23:1 reminds us, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

The Ultimate Blessing from God

Abraham acted upon his faith and he obeyed God wholeheartedly. The following is a breakdown of what God promised Abraham:

1. He would bless Abraham.
2. He would multiply his descendants:
 - a. as numerous as the stars in the sky;
 - b. as numerous as the sand on the seashore.
3. Abraham's descendants would take possession of everything that God had promised Abraham previously.
4. Through Abraham's seed all nations on the earth would be blessed.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Sacrifice is probably a new idea to your students. They are at an age of self-centeredness and are just learning to become group players. Explain to your students that God has commanded us to love one another, and an integral part of love is sacrifice. Sacrifice means to give up something for somebody else. That means that when we make a sacrifice, we have to give up something that we want. Human nature is such that it is most natural for us to be self-centered. But luckily, God has given us some good examples to follow.

God has instilled a natural inclination for sacrifice into parents. Our parents are probably the ones who have sacrificed the most for us in this world. You can help the students understand how much their parents have sacrificed by bringing up some practical examples: they

give up their time and use a lot of effort to work, cook, clean, and make them happy. You can ask the students to list some of the ways their parents have made sacrifices for them.

God Himself set the ultimate example of sacrifice by coming to this world as flesh and giving up His very life. Because of His sacrifice, we can be happy with Him in the future. You can bring home the extent of His sacrifice by asking the students if they would be willing to give up their lives for another. Help the students understand that we are all recipients of some form of sacrifice; it is right that we should sacrifice for others in return. In this way, we can all obey God's command, "Love one another, as I have loved you."

VOCABULARY

obedient: willing to do what someone tells you to do

sacrifice: to give up something special

burnt offering: a sacrifice where the animal was burned with fire

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about two very wicked cities. Which cities were they? (Sodom and Gomorrah.) What happened to these cities? (God destroyed them.) What happened to Lot? (Lot, his wife, and two daughters fled to a safe city.) However, while they were fleeing, what happened to Lot's wife? (She turned into a pillar of salt.) Because Lot's wife didn't obey the words of the angel and turned back to look at Sodom, she turned into a pillar of salt.

Today, we will be hearing an important story about obedience. Abraham was a very obedient man to God. Sometimes obeying God meant that he had to go through a lot of hardship, doing difficult things like moving from Haran to the land of Canaan. Today, we will see how Abraham, in order to obey God, had to give up the most special thing in the world to him.

BIBLE STORY

The Birth of Isaac

Do you remember why God wanted Abraham to move to the land of Canaan? It was because God promised Abraham that his children would live on this land. But up until this point, Abraham and Sarah still did not have any children. One day, God came to Abraham with two other visitors, and He promised Abraham something very special. Do you remember what that was? Abraham and Sarah would have a son one year from that time.

According to His promise, God gave Abraham and Sarah a son exactly at the time He had said He would. When Abraham was one hundred years old and when Sarah was ninety years old, she gave birth to a son. They named him "Isaac," which means "he laughs." Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me. Who would have thought that we would have a child in our old age?"

Isaac was the most special gift from God. Abraham and Sarah loved him very, very much.

God Tells Abraham to Sacrifice Isaac

One day, after Isaac had grown into a young boy, God again spoke to Abraham. He called, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," said Abraham.

God told him, "I want you to take your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to a mountain I will show you. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering to Me." A burnt offering is where an animal is burned with fire as an offering to God.

What was God thinking? Why did He ask Abraham to offer Isaac as a burnt offering? [Allow students to share ideas.] Remember that Abraham had waited such a long time for Isaac. It seemed almost impossible for him to even have a son, but God had made him a promise. God kept His promise and gave Abraham and Sarah their beautiful son. Now God was going to take Isaac away from him. We know that God always keeps His promises. Abraham remembered that God promised that he would have as many children as the number of stars in the sky. Abraham must have been telling himself over and over, "God always keeps His promises." Even though Abraham didn't know how God was going to keep His promise, he knew that he had to trust Him and be obedient.

So, early the next morning, Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. They gathered and cut enough wood for the offering and started on their journey. They headed off to a place called Moriah.

They traveled and walked, and on the third day, Abraham looked up and saw that they were almost there. Abraham said to his two servants, "Wait here with the donkey while Isaac and I go the rest of the way. When we finish worshipping God, we will come back to you." Then he took the wood for the sacrifice and laid it on Isaac's

back to carry. Abraham carried the flint and the knife.

At Mount Moriah

As the two of them walked on together, Isaac thought to himself, "Where is the animal that we are supposed to offer? Usually, there is an animal ready for the burnt offering."

So Isaac said, "Father? The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

Abraham answered, "God will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son."

Abraham must have been sad knowing what he was about to do. He probably didn't understand why God wanted him to do this, but he trusted in the Lord. This was a difficult thing to do. It was not easy, even for Abraham. This was his son that he had to give up, forever. We have a hard time just giving up our computer time or a favorite toy.

When they reached Moriah, Abraham built an altar there and laid the sticks of wood on it. An altar is like a table and it is where the burnt offering is made. After that, he tied up his son Isaac with rope and put him on top of the altar. The Bible doesn't tell us what Isaac was thinking or saying at that time but he was probably very scared and confused. If you were Isaac, what would you do or say? [Allow students to share.] But Isaac was also an obedient child and he let his father do what he needed to. So Abraham took the knife in his hand. He closed his eyes and raised his arms high into the air, ready to kill his son.

A Ram Instead

At that moment, an angel of God called out from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," Abraham answered.

"Do not kill the boy," He said. "Now I know that you fear and believe God, because you have not kept from Me your son, your only son."

Abraham put down the knife and looked up. Behind him, he saw a ram caught by its horns in some thick bushes. He went and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. God did provide the lamb, just like Abraham told Isaac He would! So Abraham called that place, "The Lord Will Provide."

God Blesses Abraham

Now God saw how obedient Abraham was, and He blessed him. Abraham was so obedient that he was willing to give up the most special thing in the world to him—his only son. So God blessed him saying, "Because you have obeyed Me and have not kept from giving Me your only son, I will surely bless you and make your children as many as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your children will live in the land and through them, all nations on earth will be blessed, all because you have

obeyed Me."

This lesson teaches us about how much God loves us. Just like Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son, God was willing to do this too. Jesus came to earth and died for all of our sins. Why would He do this? He did this because

He loved us that much! So we can really trust Jesus and pray to Him because He always keeps His promises. We can tell Him anything that is in our hearts. The Bible promises that He will never leave us.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **How old were Abraham and Sarah when Isaac was born?** Abraham was one hundred; Sarah ninety.
2. **What does the name "Isaac" mean?** "He laughs."
3. **What did God ask Abraham to do one day?** Sacrifice his one and only son Isaac.
4. **Where did they travel to?** Moriah.
5. **What did Abraham do when they arrived at Mt. Moriah?**
He built an altar, arranged the wood, tied up Isaac, and put him on the altar.
6. **What happened when Abraham was going to kill Isaac?**
An angel of the Lord called from heaven and told him to stop.
7. **After an angel stopped Abraham from sacrificing Isaac, what did Abraham find in some thick bushes?** A ram.
8. **What did Abraham do with what he found in the bushes?** He sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of Isaac.
9. **What did Abraham call the place where he made the sacrifice?** "The Lord Will Provide."
10. **What did God do after He saw how obedient Abraham was?** He blessed him.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Faith without works is dead." (James 2:26b)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. To obey means to do what someone tells you to do.
2. To sacrifice means to give up something special.
3. 100, 90
4. his one and only son Isaac
5. lamb
6. fear; believe
7. "The Lord will provide."
8. False; the Lord provided a ram to be sacrificed instead.
9. True
10. Answers may vary.

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. God wants us to love Him by obeying His commandments wholeheartedly.

God wants our love. In Matthew chapter twelve, Jesus tells us what are the two greatest commandments:

1. To "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength."
2. "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Love for God is simple obedience. "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3). "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15).

God gives us commandments for our benefit, as they are instructions on how to have a happy and productive life. The more you learn and love God, the more you will desire to do His will (John 14:21). Once you understand the commandments, you must have the courage to obey them, even if it means giving up something you want very much. Our loving Heavenly Father will bless you for your obedience with peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come.

2. God wants us to obey our parents.

In the Bible, the word 'obey' is mentioned hundreds of times. Obviously, obedience is important to God. Therefore, it should also be important to us.

Throughout the Bible, God teaches His children to obey their parents. In Exodus 20:12, He says: "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you."

What exactly does it mean to honor our parents? Honoring our parents means treating them with respect and love. We are to love, cherish, trust, obey and respect our parents with a cheerful heart that wants to obey. In other words, we honor our parents by obeying them.

When Jesus was a child He obeyed His earthly parents, Joseph & Mary. By obeying them, He obeyed and pleased God. In Luke 2:51, we are told that "[Jesus] went down with [His parents] and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them."

In Colossians 3:20, God commands, "Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord." This verse tells us that our obedience pleases God. In other words, when we obey our parents, God is happy. If our mom or dad asks us to set the table for dinner, when we obey quickly and with a cheerful heart, God is pleased. By obeying our parents, we are serving and obeying God, too.

ACTIVITIES

1

Obedience Tree

Objective: To illustrate that God wants us to be obedient in doing things that are right.

Instructions

Cut out a set of fruit-shaped cards to represent acts of obedience and distribute the cards to the students (two or three cards per student). Draw a large tree on the board. Ask the students to write down examples of how they have been obedient and tape them on the tree. If any students cannot think of an example, these are some questions to get them thinking.

1. God wants us to be obedient to our parents. Do you clean your room when your parents ask you to?
2. God wants us to be good helpers. Do you help faithfully with the chores in your home or at church until the task is finished?
3. God wants us to be faithful in all that we do. Do you do your homework and complete it well in a timely manner?
4. God wants us to observe the Sabbath day. When your friends invite you to a birthday party on the Sabbath, do you choose to come to church?
5. God wants us to love our brothers and sisters. When your brother or sister wants to play with your favorite toy or game, do you love them by sharing your toy or game with them?

2

Let's Obey!

Objective: To help the students affirm their belief in Jesus.

Instructions

Have the students line up in a horizontal line across the back of the room. Instead of taking turns, all the students will listen to your questions and respond with, "Yes, I will." You then issue the command and they follow. In this game everyone is a winner when they reach you. (Adjust the commands according to your room size so that they can reach you by the time you've finished asking the questions.)

1. Your father asks you to turn the TV off. Will you get up and do it without saying, "Wait"? (You may take 3 baby steps forward.)
2. Your mother asks you to stop talking in the living room when she's talking on the phone. Will you stop talking? (You may take 4 little hops forward.)
3. Your big sister asks you not to play in her room with your friend. Will you stay out of her room? (You may take 1 giant step forward.)
4. Your mother tells you that eating too much candy is bad for you. Will you keep your fingers out of the candy jar when she's not looking? (You may take 2 scissor steps forward.)
5. Your mother tells you to come straight home from school and not stop for any reason. Will you go straight home even though your friend is calling from his house to come see his new puppies? (You may take 3 sidwinder steps forward.)
6. Your teacher asks you not to talk to your classmate when she is teaching. Will you stop talking? (You may take 4 little hops forward.)

Remind the students that we often have to obey even though we can't understand the reason for it. Only Jesus can help us do that. When someone asks you to do something and you feel like saying "no" say a prayer for Jesus to help you.

Discussion

Think about the one thing you have that you treasure the most. Is it a toy? A picture? Is it your mom or dad? Now imagine having to give up that thing. Imagine seeing it destroyed. How does that make you feel? God knows how that feels. He gave up the thing most precious to Him so that evil people could destroy it. What was it? His son. Are we willing to sacrifice like He has?

3

Red Light, Green Light

Objective: To find out how well the students can obey instructions and to show the importance of obeying instructions.

Instructions

Line the students up against a wall (this game may work better in a large room). Pick one student to stand at the opposite end of the room and be the "traffic light." When the "traffic light" is facing away from the students, he/she is a green light, which means the other students can walk towards him/her. When he/she is facing them, he/she is a red light, which means the students have to stop and wait for him/her to turn green again. The first student to touch the "traffic light" becomes the new "traffic light."

4

Memory Verse Practice / Optional

Objective: To reinforce the importance of today's memory verse.

Instructions

Assign a gesture to each word of the memory verse: "faith" (praying), "without" (minus sign), "works" (working), "is" (equal sign), and "dead" (tongue sticking out with head tilted to one side).

Arrange the students in a circle. When you tap on student A's shoulder, Student A has to say the first word of the memory verse, "faith," followed by student B, sitting to the left, who recites the second word of the memory verse, "without," followed by student C with "works," etc., until the last word of the memory verse has been recited. This memory verse exercise can be made more challenging by having the students act out the previously assigned gestures at the same time.

E1 Year 1 Book 1 Lesson 11—Abraham Sacrifices Isaac

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truths: 1. God calls us to give everything we have to Him and we must obey.
 2. When we trust God, He will provide for every need we have. He is "the Lord who provides."

Lesson Objectives: 1. To learn to give up the things that mean the most to us.
 2. To learn to trust in God because God will provide.

Bible Reading: Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(James 2:26b)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Short Answer

1. What does it mean to obey?

2. What does it mean to sacrifice?

Fill In the Blanks

(The Lord will provide his one and only son Isaac 100 sacrifice 90 believe lamb fear)

3. Abraham was _____ years old and Sarah was _____ years old when Isaac was born.
4. God asked Abraham to sacrifice _____ in a place called Moriah.
5. On the way to Moriah, Isaac noticed that the _____ for the sacrifice was missing.
6. When Abraham was about to kill Isaac, an angel said to him, "Do not kill the boy. Now I know that you _____ and _____ God, because you have not kept from Me your son, your only son."
7. Abraham called the place where he made the sacrifice, "_____."

True or False

8. The angel allowed Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. _____
9. God wants us to obey Him wholeheartedly. _____

Life Application

10. God blessed Abraham after He saw how obedient Abraham was. Have you been blessed by God because you have been obedient? Please think of an example and write it down.
