

Lesson 8

Abraham Obeys God

Genesis 22:1–19

Memory Verse

“All that the Lord
has said we will
do, and be obedient”
(Exodus 24:7)

Teacher’s Objective

At the end of the session,
the students should
be able to:

Define the words *altar*,
offering, and *burnt offer-
ing*

Locate on a map
Mount Moriah

Describe how we please
God through our
obedience to Him

Express in their own
words how they will
show love for God

Materials Needed

See “Teaching Activities”
for specific activities

Teacher’s Bible Study

At the age of one hundred, Abraham’s long awaited son, Isaac, was born. Abraham had longed for and waited a long time for this promised son. Now Abraham was given the greatest test of his life. The test God gave him was real. This test that God gave was to defy logic; it was something that anyone, including Abraham, would want to resist and it was designed to prove the faith of Abraham.

Around 2050 B.C. Abraham and Isaac traveled to the “land of Moriah.” The historian Josephus thinks that Isaac was about 25 years old. Hebrew text, however, seems to imply that Isaac may have been somewhat younger. It is impossible to know his exact age.

Mount Moriah was one of the focal points throughout Bible history (Teacher: Be sure to have a map available to show your students the location). Mount Moriah is located just to the north of the city of Jerusalem. Abraham and Isaac had to travel three days from Beersheba to Mount Moriah. This was a distance of about 50 to 60 miles.

Several important events have occurred on Mount Moriah. The supreme test of faithfulness was given to Abraham on this mount. Due to his obedience, God began a new nation with Isaac (Genesis 22:1–19). Araunah’s threshing floor was on this same mountain. A violent plague was stopped by God from killing the people of Israel because of David’s disobedience. David bought a threshing floor and made an altar to God (II Samuel 24:1–25). On this mountain, God’s holy temple was built first by King Solomon, then by Zerubabel—after it had been destroyed—and then by Herod the Great. It was a place of worship for Jews for centuries (I Kings 5–8; Haggai 1:12–2:9; John 2:20). Finally, just a short distance down the west side of Mount Moriah, the Last Supper took place (Matthew 26:17–29). A few weeks later, the disciples gathered in an upper room, on Pentecost, and received the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1–4).

For the Israelites, an altar was much more than a place to offer a sacrifice to God. It symbolized a place to have communion with God and was an act of remembering His covenant. *Altar* means “to approach.” When making a sacrifice, the Israelites were approaching God to worship Him and ask for forgiveness of their sins. An altar was made of stones found in a field. These stones were not cut or reshaped; if they had been they would be considered unholy and God would not accept the sacrifice.

The greatness of Abraham’s faith and the greatness of Isaac’s faith in submission are revealed in this story. When you truly worship and obey God, nothing is held back. We are to fear God, reverence Him as sovereign, trust Him implicitly, and obey Him without question.

Presenting the Bible Story

Genesis 22:1–2

God is testing Abraham by ordering him to offer his promised son on Mount Moriah as a burnt sacrifice. Isaac was a young man; we do not know his exact age. We know he wasn't married and he did not have children. When God told Abraham to send his son Ishmael away, Abraham obeyed (Genesis 21:12–13). Now God is telling Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. It is easy to trust in God when all is going well, and quite another thing when faced with hard decisions. How far would Abraham go in obeying God? Did Abraham believe God would keep His promise and make a great nation of his seed?

Genesis 22:3–8

*How could God ask Abraham to sacrifice his son when God had made a covenant with Isaac and his descendants?
(Genesis 17:19)*

Abraham did not even question God. In addition to this, he headed out on this journey early! Another amazing statement is made by Abraham in verse 5. Abraham told his two servants, "stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." Abraham must have worked this whole event out in his head on the three-day journey. "Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead" (Hebrews 11:19). In faith, Abraham responded to Isaac's question, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering."

Genesis 22:9–18

Offerings today have a different meaning than it did during Old Testament times. An offering today is giving money. People during Old Testament times would make a burnt offering by placing an animal on an altar and burning it before the Lord. The animal may be a bullock, lamb, ram, or goat. Burnt offerings were done to ask for forgiveness of sin.

The Angel of the Lord stopped Abraham from sacrificing his only son. Now God knew that Abraham feared Him, revered Him, trusted Him and obeyed Him without question. Abraham, by his actions, showed total faith in God. The passage, "In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided," is repeated many times in the Old Testament. In His holy mountain God was to be worshiped. "Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord God...and they shall not appear before the Lord empty" (Deuteronomy 16:16; see also Exodus 23:17). God will provide, just as He provided a ram as the substitute for Isaac. God provided the sacrifice just as He provided Jesus Christ. The main point here being, sometimes at great cost we worship God, but in the end God will and does provide. James 2:17 says, "faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." In other words, your actions speak louder than words. By the way you behave, others will know if you are a Christian and have faith in God.

God confirmed His covenant again with Abraham and added another element: "Your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies." This was fulfilled by Joshua.

How do we worship God totally?

1. Having complete faith in the Word of God.

2. Holding back nothing. Surrendering totally to God.

3. Waiting on God to provide all we need.

Art and Activities

Just as Abraham was willing to make a costly sacrifice, having the faith that God would provide, we too need to believe and have faith that God will provide for us in our time of need. We are to offer ourselves as living sacrifices to God. To overcome evil with good. *He is ever faithful* to be with us and guide us.

Teaching Activities

Young Children

Provide copies of the Activity Page suitable for your student's age group.

Older Children

Provide copies of the Activity Page suitable for your student's age group.

Explore with your students the following questions :

Explore the Subject

1. While Abraham made his three-day journey to Mount Moriah, what do you think was in his heart and mind?

2. Where is the scripture that shows how Abraham had worked through the problem? (Hebrews 11:19).

3. Should faith in God be what we imagine God's will to be? Why?

4. Should faith in God be relying on Him to show us the way? Why?

5. When making decisions, should we only look at factors we can see?

6. Or, when we make decisions, should we reason that God is able to alter circumstances? (Note: Abraham reasoned that God's will was the ultimate reality.)

Always close your class with prayer

Respond and Reinforce

1. How have your choices and actions in life shown that you trust—*have faith*—in God?

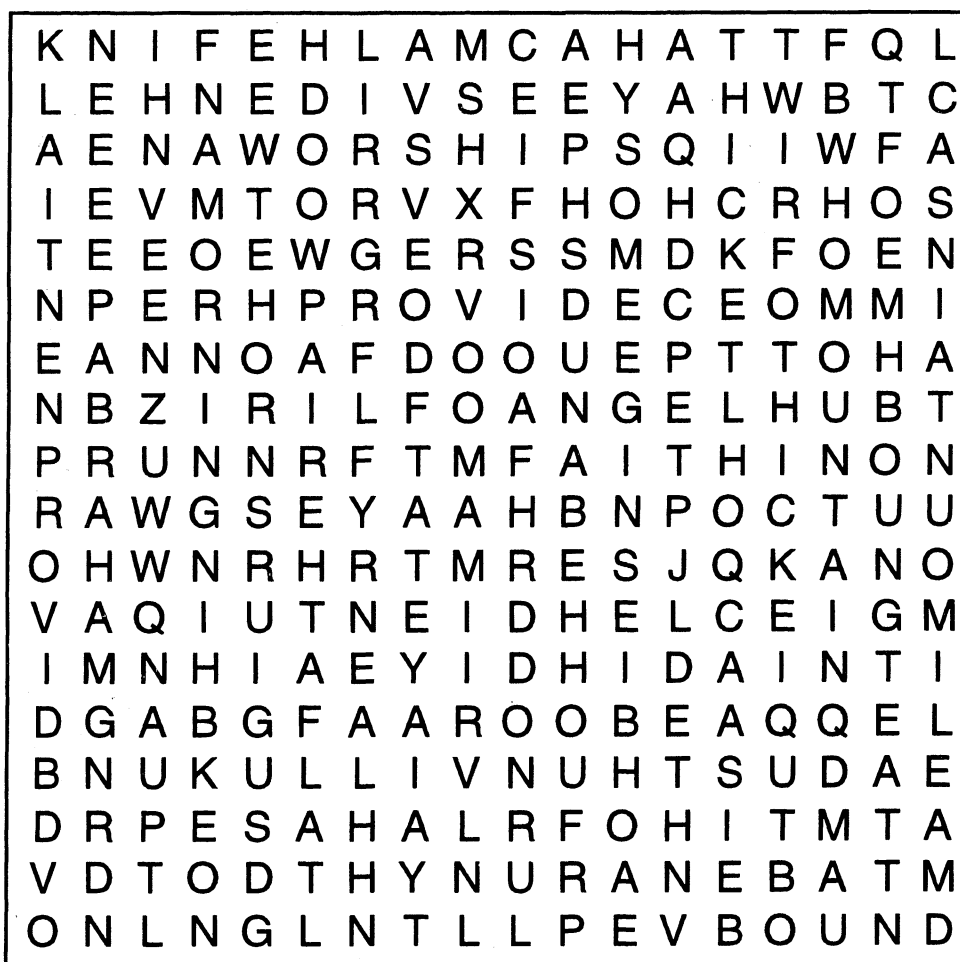
2. Discuss memory verse.

Activity Page

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Genesis 22:1-19

Find the words below hidden in the puzzle.
They are hidden up, down, across, backwards, and diagonally.



ABRAHAM
ISAAC
ONLY
MORIAH
OFFERING
BURNT

MOUNTAINS
MORNING
WOOD
THIRD
WORSHIP
WOOD

FIRE
KNIFE
LAMB
PROVIDE
ALTAR
BOUND

LAI
SLAY
ANGEL
HEAVEN
HAND
LAD

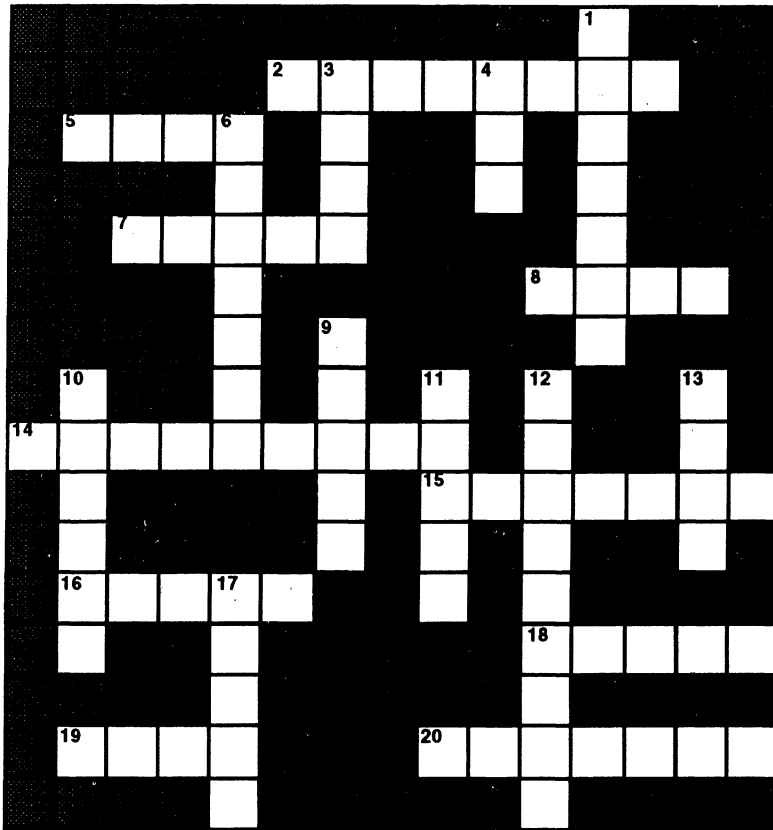
RAM
THICKET
HORNS
JEHOVAH
FAITH
FATHER

Activity Page

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Read the scriptures and complete the crossword below with the clues given.



Across:

- 2. Something offered.
- 5. A means of trial.
- 7. A cutting instrument.
- 8. Hard fibrous material that makes up the trunk and branches of a tree.
- 14. A large elevation of land and rock rising abruptly; larger than hills.
- 15. Called the Father of the Faithful.
- 16. Elevated place where religious rites are performed.
- 18. Tied; in bonds.
- 19. A state of combustion
- 20. The beginning of day.

Down:

- 1. One son (two words; see Genesis 22:2).
- 3. State or process of combustion; gives off light, heat, and flame.
- 4. Male sheep.
- 6. A dense growth of bushes.
- 9. Confidence and trust in God.
- 10. God told Abraham to go to the land of _____ (Genesis 22:2).
- 11. Abraham's promised son.
- 12. First in order of birth.
- 13. To kill by violence; to extinguish.
- 17. A messenger of God.

Across: Offering; 5. Test; 7. Knife; 8. Wood; 14. Mountains; 15. Abraham; 16. Altar; 18. Bound; 19. Fire; 20. Morning. Down: 1. Only son; 3. Fire; 4. Ram; 6. Thick; 9. Faith; 10. Moriah;

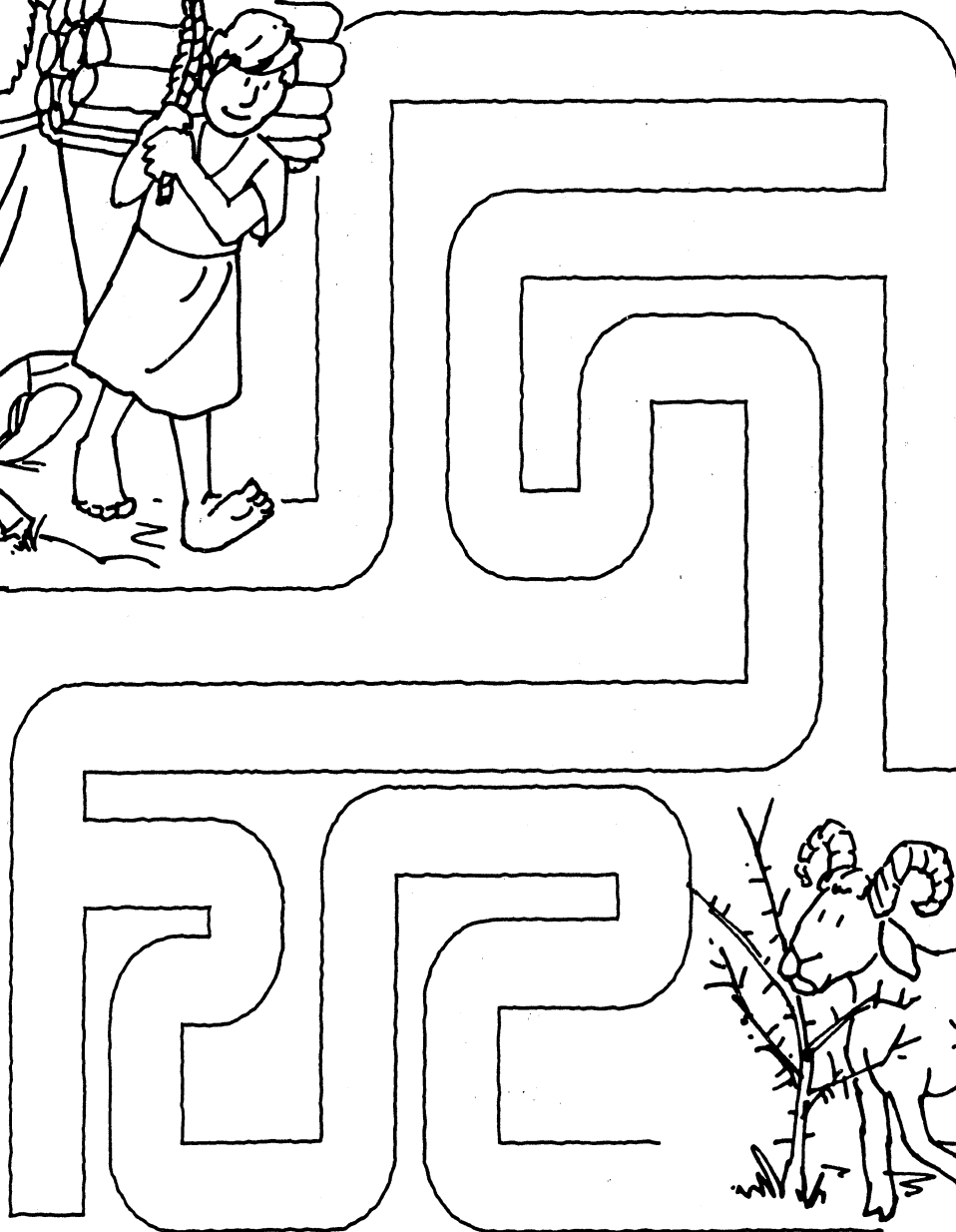
Activity Page

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Abraham proved he loved God, so God supplied a ram for an offering.

Help Abraham and Isaac follow the right path to the ram.



Activity Page

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