

012 Abraham's Faith

MEMORY VERSE: So Abraham called the name of the place "The LORD will provide." Genesis 22:14a

SCRIPTURES: Genesis 21:1-8; 22:1-19

AIM: Abraham trusted God in His promise to provide

"Look at our beautiful baby," said Sarah.

Abraham looked at the child God had given them. "I still can't believe God gave us this baby, Sarah! He is truly a miracle child. I don't know of anyone else who is one hundred years old and has a tiny baby boy."

"I didn't believe God at first, but now I know God can do anything," said Sarah. "I'm so happy I want to share the good news of our baby with all my friends."

"We will call him Isaac," said Abraham. That name means 'laughter.'

Sarah was pleased with the name Isaac. "I know he will bring much laughter and happiness into my life," thought Sarah.

Abraham loved God more than anyone else in the whole world. But would he still love God if his only son Isaac were taken away?" God decided to test Abraham's faith and see if he trusted God enough to obey Him.

So one day, when Isaac was not a baby anymore, God called, "Abraham."

"Yes, Lord," Abraham answered.

Then God asked Abraham to do a very strange thing. "Take with you your only son you love so much and go to Moriah. There on one of the mountains I want you to sacrifice your son as a burnt offering."

Abraham couldn't believe what God was asking! Offer his son as a sacrifice! Only the heathen people who didn't love God and worshiped idols offered their children as sacrifices. Abraham knew God hated this practice and called it a terrible sin. What was God thinking?

But Abraham knew God never made mistakes. He trusted God completely and knew to obey God was what he should do.

The next morning Abraham got up early and chopped (First show Abraham, 18, and Isaac, 114, standing and talking together). some wood for the altar and put it on a donkey's back to carry. He took his son Isaac and two young men who were servants.

They started to the place God had told him to go. It was a long way and took three days to get there.

"Stay here with the donkey," he ordered the servants. "My son and I will go over there to worship God."

"Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's shoulders, and the two of them went on together.

Isaac walked happily beside his father. Then he asked, "Father, you have the knife and I have the wood. But where is the lamb for the sacrifice?"

Abraham was shaken, but showing faith he answered, "God will provide Himself a lamb."

They walked on together until they reached the place God had told Abraham about. Slowly, Abraham built an altar. Then he arranged the wood. Now there were no more preparations to make. He could put the moment off no longer. Tearfully Abraham explained what God had requested, then he took Isaac, bound him with rope, and laid him on the altar. Isaac did not try to resist as he also was obedient to his heavenly Father and his earthly father.

Just as Abraham was ready to offer Isaac as a sacrifice an angel from heaven cried, "Stop! Don't hurt the boy! Don't do anything to him!

"Now God knows you love Him more than even your only son."

Then Abraham saw a ram caught in a thicket by his horns and offered it as a sacrifice.

"Because you have obeyed God," the angel said, "He will do wonderful things for you. You will have many children and grandchildren and great grandchildren who will love and obey Him.

"Look at the sand on the ground," said the angel. "Remember the stars in the sky."

"I can't even count them," said Abraham.

“That’s how many children God will give you. He won’t allow your enemies to conquer you and people will be blessed throughout the world because of you.”

“I don’t deserve all this,” said Abraham. “Why is God doing this?”

“God wants to make a great nation of you, and in your offspring, all nations will be blessed.”

To obey God is not always easy, but it always right. God was testing Abraham. He did not want to physically harm Isaac; He just wanted Abraham to show that **nothing** was more important to him than God and His ways, and God wanted to demonstrate that He will provide for those who trust in Him.