


# *Upper Elementary*

## *Abraham & Isaac*

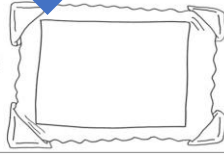
All scripture quotations are taken from the World English Bible, 2020.

Topic:	God Tests Abraham
Intro:	Have students draw their most prized possession. How would you feel if you were asked to throw it away or give it to someone else?
	What had God given Abraham after many years of waiting? (a son, Isaac) Do you think Isaac was Abraham's most treasured possession?
Genesis 22:1-2	After these things, God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" He said, "Here I am." He said, "Now take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go into the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains which I will tell you of."
	Why did God ask Abraham to do this? (to test him) Did God ever ask people to sacrifice a human being to Him? (no, He later told the Israelites to destroy the groups of people who did offer their children as sacrifices to their gods) Did Abraham know God was testing him? (opinions may vary) Did Abraham question God? (no)
Genesis 22:3-5	Abraham rose early in the morning, and saddled his donkey; and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son. He split the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place far off. Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there. We will worship, and come back to you."
	Who did Abraham say will come back? ("we"-Isaac and him)



God Tests Abraham

My Most Treasured Possession



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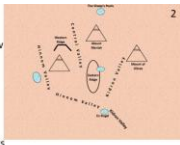
Why did God ask Abraham to do this?

To \_\_\_\_\_ him.

Did Abraham question God?

This showed: ☐ doubt ☐ faith

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Genesis 22:6-8	<p>Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. He took in his hand the fire and the knife. They both went together. Isaac spoke to Abraham his father, and said, "My father?" He said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? Abraham said, "God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they both went together.</p>
	<p>How might Abraham have felt? How might Isaac have felt? Can you imagine what you might be thinking if your mom or dad acted like this? What was Abraham's answer? (God Himself will provide the lamb) What could he have meant by this?</p>
Standing	<p>Have students stand and choose one volunteer. While everyone else turns around, have the volunteer change one small thing about their appearance (pulling socks up or down, buttoning a sweater, changing hair, switching shoes, etc.). Have everyone turn around and try to figure out what has changed. Let each student have a turn being the volunteer.</p>
	<p>Even though the person did something different, they were really still the same. You knew they were still the same person and had not changed. Abraham trusted that God was still the same, even though His instructions to him were different than what he knew before. Isaac trusted that his father was still the same, even though he was acting differently than before.</p>
Genesis 22:9-12	<p>They came to the place which God had told him of. Abraham built the altar there, and laid the wood in order, bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar, on the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand, and took the knife to kill his son. The LORD's angel called to him out of the sky, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" He said, "Here I am." He said, "Don't lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."</p>

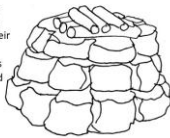
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Who did Abraham say will provide the lamb?

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**i** Many ancient cultures practiced ritual **sacrifice**. In the Old Testament, God commands His people to sacrifice animals, to make up for their sins. The first sacrifice happened right after Adam and Eve's sin. In other religions, people also sacrificed humans to their false gods, often, their own children. God commanded the Israelites to **never** ever do this. God was testing Abraham's faithfulness.




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**i** The Hebrew word for altar is **מִזְבֵּחַ (mizbe'ah)**, meaning "a place of sacrifice." In Bible times, altars were usually made out of dirt, a large stone that was not carved, or a pile of stones. Altars were generally built in places where they would be easy to see, like the tops of mountains.




	<p>Have you ever asked God for something really, really important, and then just waited for Him to answer your prayer? As each day passes, you might think, "Okay, He'll answer my prayer today." Then when it doesn't happen, the next day you think again, "Okay, probably now He'll fix this problem." And then you keep thinking that every day, still thinking that this really must be as long as God could possibly expect you to wait for His help. Abraham might have had the same thoughts. He might have thought it at the top of the mountain, then when he built the altar, then when he tied up Isaac, then when he put him on the wood. He may have been thinking, "Okay, now God is going to provide the lamb...Okay, now....No, but probably now." Did he still follow God's instructions? Did he still act on faith? When did God step in? (at the last minute)</p>
Hebrews 11:17-19	<p>By faith, Abraham, being tested, offered up Isaac. Yes, he who had gladly received the promises was offering up his only born son, to whom it was said, "Your offspring will be accounted as from Isaac," concluding that God is able to raise up even from the dead. Figuratively speaking, he also did receive him back from the dead.</p>
	<p>According to Hebrews, perhaps Abraham believed that as soon as he sacrificed Isaac, God would raise him from the dead. In this way, Abraham was looking ahead to the sacrifice and resurrection that God the Father would one day make happen through His Son, Jesus.</p>
Genesis 22:13-18	<p>Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and saw that behind him was a ram caught in the thicket by his horns. Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering instead of his son. Abraham called the name of that place "The LORD Will Provide." As it is said to this day, "On the LORD's mountain, it will be provided." The LORD's angel called to Abraham a second time out of the sky, and said, "'I have sworn by myself,' says the LORD, 'because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, that I will bless you greatly, and I will multiply your offspring greatly like the stars of the heavens, and like the sand which is on the seashore. Your offspring will possess the gate of His enemies. All the nations of the earth will be blessed by your offspring, because you have obeyed My voice.'"</p>
	<p>Abraham was right. God did provide the lamb for the sacrifice. Was this the only time God would provide the lamb for the sacrifice? Think about what similarities there are between this story and when Jesus died on the cross. (God the Father sacrificed His only Son, Jesus became the Lamb)</p>



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What might Abraham have believed God has the power to do?

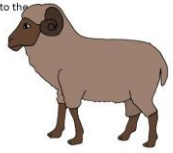


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Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist...

John 1:29

The next day, he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Who did God the Father later provide to take away our sins?

When we don't understand God's commands, we should act on:

doubt ☐

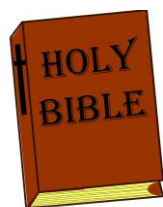
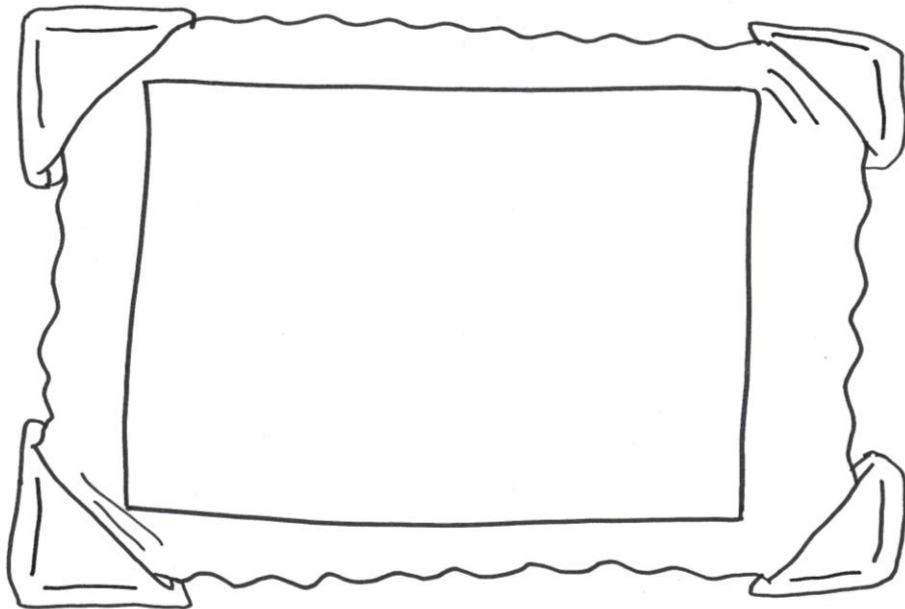
faith ☐

John 1:29	The next day, he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"
	Jesus is often called the Lamb of God. The sacrifices people made to God in Old Testament times were only temporary. They did this to show their faith that God would forgive their sins. And God shared with His prophets that the Son would come one day. We now know that this was Jesus. Just like Abraham, we have a choice. We can doubt God when we don't understand what God is asking us to do or we can have faith in Him.
Special Note to Children:	This was a very extraordinary event. That's why it's recorded in the Bible. If this story feels uncomfortable, it should. That's why we pay so much attention to it. It would not be normal for an adult to tell you to do something that feels this dangerous and unsafe. Just because this happened in the Bible, do not ever let someone put you in danger, even if it is someone you would normally trust. Even adults have moments where they need someone to tell them they are doing something wrong. If something feels very wrong in your gut, it probably is. Do whatever you need to do to get the attention of someone who can help you.
Closing:	Discuss things that people might love more than God. TV, sports, being famous, etc. Discuss things that we might have to sacrifice (give up) to serve God better. Examples: Our favourite TV program if it comes on during worship time, Sunday morning Little League, toys or clothes to someone whose house burned, popularity, bad habits, etc. Maybe there are things that God doesn't actually want you to give up (your toys, playing soccer, ice cream) but He does want you to be willing to give them up if you had to)
	Do God's commandments in the Bible always make sense? Have students think of something they have learned about God or the Bible that doesn't make sense to them. Share these things. Some may have easier answers. Others might still be a mystery, even for the teacher. It's okay to accept that we don't always understand God's ways. This story reminds us that we should obey God, even when His instructions seem strange or are different from what other people tell us is right.

# God Tests Abraham

Start

My Most Treasured  
Possession



Genesis 22:1-2

After these things, God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" He said, "Here I am." He said, "Now take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go into the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains which I will tell you of."

Why did God ask Abraham to do this?

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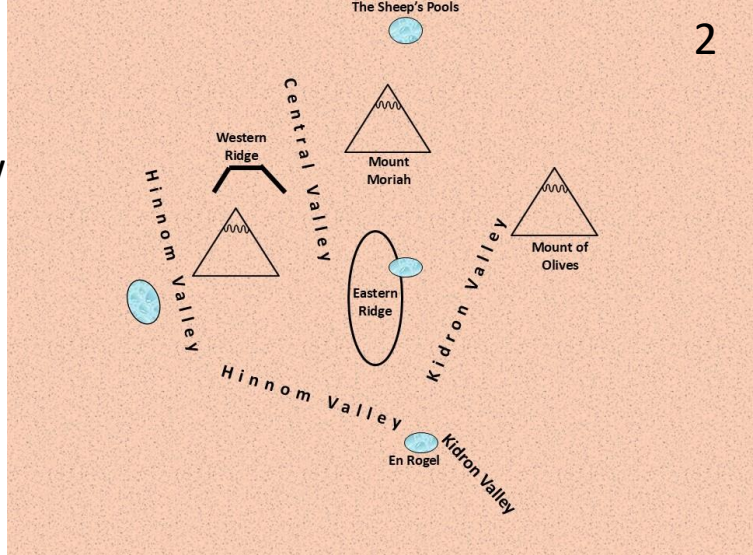
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**Who did Abraham say will come back?**

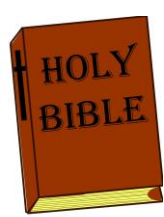
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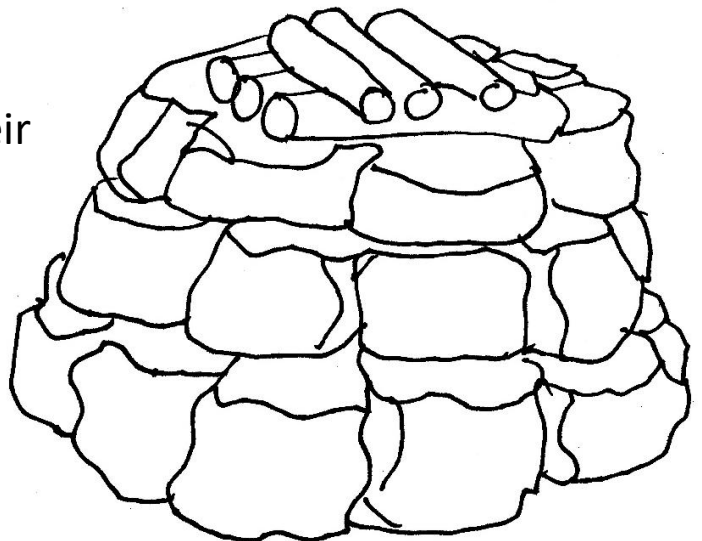
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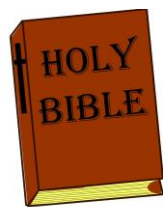


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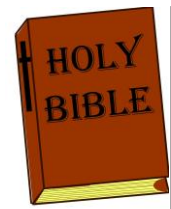
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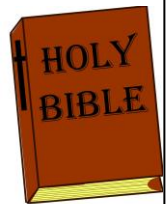
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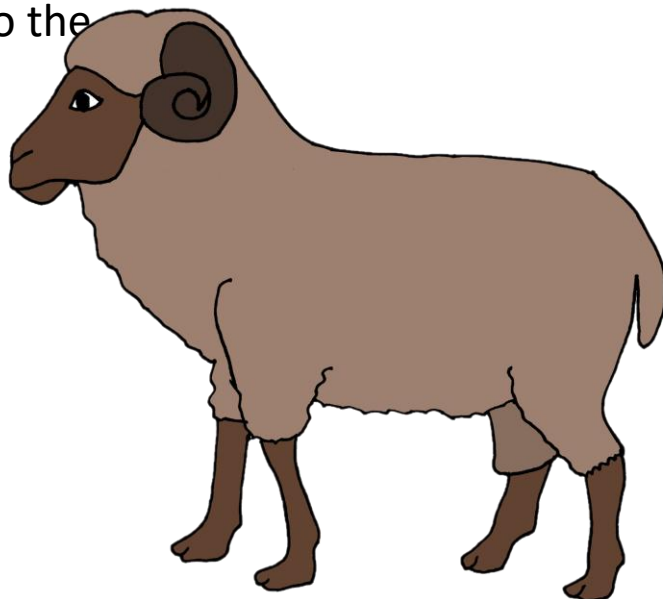


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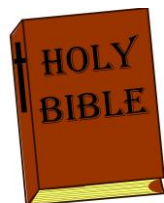
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☐
☐



Can you find the connections?

## God Tests Abraham

## Jesus on the Cross

Abraham's only son

Jesus rode a donkey to Jerusalem

Saddled a donkey to ride

Jesus carried the wooden cross

Arrived on the third day

Jesus was bound to the cross

Isaac carried the wood

Jesus took our place

Isaac was bound to the altar

God's only Son

Ram replaced Isaac

Resurrected on the third day

# Abraham and Isaac



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

C	V	A	B	R	A	H	A	M	B
G	M	L	H	J	K	L	M	A	N
F	O	T	D	S	A	Q	W	R	S
I	U	A	U	Y	T	R	E	W	A
D	N	R	E	H	T	A	F	G	C
O	T	O	P	L	M	L	N	B	R
N	A	A	S	D	S	O	N	H	I
K	I	Z	Z	X	C	V	V	B	F
E	N	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	I
Y	J	H	G	F	I	S	A	A	C
K	L	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	E

Abraham

Isaac

Sacrifice

Altar

Mountain

present

Son

Love

Donkey

Ram

father