



Lesson Five

God Tests Abraham's Faith

Heart Preparation & Bible Background

God had kept his promise to Abraham and Sarah in the birth of Isaac. Now God's promises to make Abraham a great nation and to send a Savior were in the process of being fulfilled. But then God gave Abraham a perplexing and hard command: He told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac—his beloved son, the son of the promise—as a burnt offering.

We may well ask what the Lord had in mind when he asked Abraham to offer up Isaac. As the story unfolds, it becomes clear that God was testing Abraham; he wanted to confirm and build up Abraham's *faith*.

Would Abraham trust God's promise to Isaac and his offspring, even as he obediently prepared to sacrifice him (Genesis 17:19, 21)? Indeed, Abraham's faith in God and in his provision shines throughout the narrative. Abraham expected Isaac to return with him (22:5) and anticipated that God would provide for the offering (22:8). Abraham trusted God so completely that he believed God could raise Isaac from the dead, if need be, in order to keep his promise to continue the covenant line (Hebrews 11:19).

Because Abraham trusted God, he set out to obey him, and when God saw the genuineness of his faith, he stayed Abraham's hand at the altar of sacrifice. God himself provided a ram in place of Isaac, and Abraham sacrificed it to the Lord.

Like Abraham, God wants us to trust him in *all* things. He wants us to believe and obey in every circumstance because he is the God who provides all our needs. He mercifully gave Abraham a substitutionary sacrifice, just as one day he would send the Lord Jesus Christ—from Abraham's line—to die in our place (Romans 8:32).

God wants us to trust his provision in Christ for our redemption, then to obey him out of faith, believing his promises to us. In this lesson, as you direct attention to God's sacrifice on the cross, pray that the children will learn to trust, obey and follow him.



Bible Truth

Abraham fully trusted God to provide, and he set out in faith to obey God's command to sacrifice his son. God provided a ram as a substitute for Isaac.

Scripture

Genesis 22:1–19



Lesson Focus

God, who provides all we need, wants us to learn to trust, obey and follow him even when it is very hard to do so.

Goals for the Children

- Tell how Abraham showed trust and obedience.
- Tell what God provided in Isaac's place.
- Tell who God provided to die in our place.
- Ask God for a heart of faith.



Memory Minute

*Review Hebrews 11:8a, NKJV:
By faith Abraham obeyed.*