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The Boy and the Ram

Key References: Genesis 22:1-14; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 13, pp. 145-155; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 1, pp. 168-176; Our Beliefs, nos. 10, 3, 22.















powertext

"So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, 'On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided'" (Genesis 22:14, NIV).

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 47.

powerPoint

God shows His grace by stepping into our place to save us.

Can you remember wanting something for a long time, and then finally getting it? Maybe it was a bicycle, a computer, a pet, or a brother or sister. It is the most precious thing you have. Now, can you imagine how you would feel if you were asked to give it up?

Abraham pulled back the tent flap and slipped out into the inky blackness. As he looked up at the sky and saw the twinkling stars he was reminded of a conversation he had had with God many years before. "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them," God had said (Genesis 15:5, NIV). The Lord promised Abraham that his descendants will be countless as the stars of the sky.

What would God and Abraham talk about tonight? The desert stillness surrounded him as he walked away from the camp. The night wind was chilly even though the sand still felt warm through the soles of his sandals.

"Abraham!" God called.

"Here I am," he replied.

"Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you," God told Abraham (Genesis 22:1, 2, NIV).

Imagine Abraham's astonishment at the thought of having to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac, for whose birth he had waited until he was 100 years old. He must have wondered how God's plan concerning his family would be realized if he sacrificed Isaac, his only rightful heir. Yet after years of walking by faith, Abraham learned to recognize God's voice. The Lord's command was very clear, and this man of God had learned to obey it without doubting.

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Sunday

READ Read Genesis 22:1, 2 and this week's story, "The Boy and the Ram."

LEARN Begin to learn the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you share the good news of God's grace with someone each day.

Monday

READ Read Genesis 22:3-5.

RESEARCH Use a Bible concordance. Find five references to lambs, sheep, or rams as sacrifices.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the many symbols in the Bible that remind us of God's gift of salvation through Jesus.

Tuesday

READ Read Genesis 22:6-8.

THINK Were the words of Abraham fulfilled that God would "provide the lamb for the burnt offering" (Genesis 22:7, NIV)?

REVIEW Review the power text.

LIST In your Bible study journal, make a list of special gifts of grace that you receive from God (patience with brother/sister, a way to go to Christian school, etc.).

PRAY Ask God to provide these gifts you have listed.

Abraham slowly walked back to his tent. Before the sun was up, Abraham had his donkey saddled and loaded and two servants ready to go with him. He slipped into the tent where Isaac slept. Gently he shook Isaac awake. "Come with me, son."

Isaac rubbed his sleepy eyes. "Where are we going, Father?"

Abraham's voice quivered. "We're going to sacrifice to the Lord."

For three days the little group trudged through the valleys and over the hills. The hot, dusty trip was a quiet one. On the third day they could see Mount Moriah in the distance. Abraham's servants made camp and he instructed them, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you" (verse 5, NIV). Isaac put the bundle of firewood on his back as Abraham gathered some coals from the fire.



Halfway up the mountain Isaac stopped suddenly. "Father?" he asked.

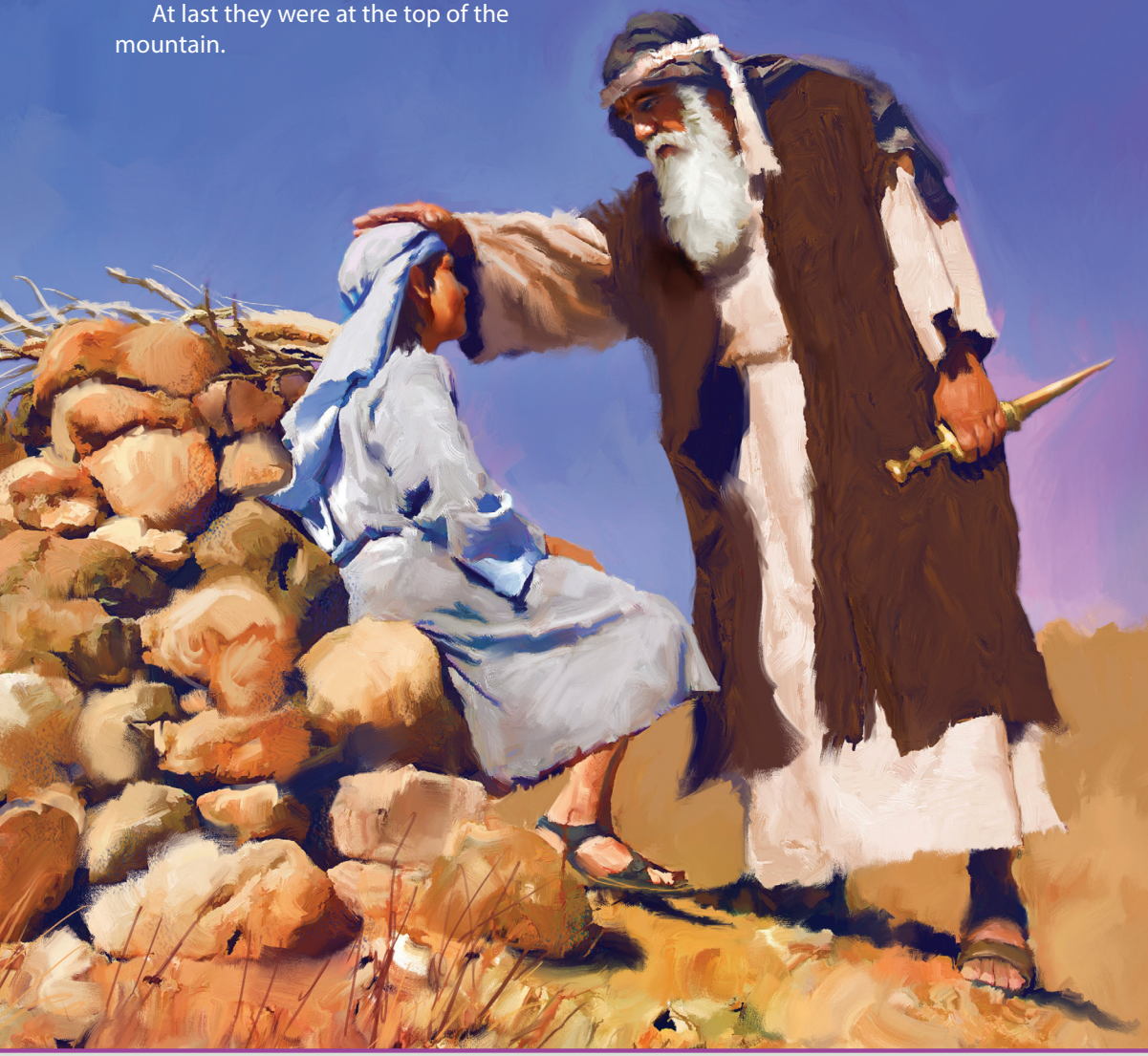
"Yes, my son?" answered Abraham.

"The fire and wood are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" inquired Isaac.

Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son" (verses 7, 8, NIV).

At last they were at the top of the mountain.

Finally Abraham turned to Isaac and with most tender love he explained to his son God's plan for the sacrifice. Isaac did not protest, nor did he oppose his aged father. On the contrary, Isaac allowed his father to tie his hands and feet as he lay on the altar.



6

Wednesday

READ Read Genesis 22:9-12.

IMAGINE Imagine you are Isaac. How do you feel when your father tells you that you are to be the sacrifice? What would you say to him? What would you do?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray that God would bless the adults who have to make difficult decisions as they try to honor God.

Thursday

READ Read Genesis 22:13, 14.

CREATE An acrostic is a way of arranging words so that the first letters of the word or line form another word or phrase. Create acrostics using the word GRACE. (Example: God Reaches All Children Everywhere.)

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God that He provides for us as we trust Him.

Friday

READ Read the following verses: 2 Kings 18:5; Psalm 22:4; Psalm 91:2; Proverbs 29:25.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write what "trust" means to you.

THINK Accepting God's gift of grace means trusting that He provides for all our needs.

SHARE Share the good news about grace with someone today.

REPEAT Say the power text aloud from memory.

PRAY Ask God to help you always to remember that "the Lord will provide" in every situation if you trust Him.

He had learned from his father to trust and honor the living God. The willingness of this young boy to sacrifice his life as a burnt offering is evidence to his unshakeable faith in his heavenly Father. Isaac felt honored to be chosen as the sacrifice to God.

Abraham picked up the knife and raised it into the air. Then suddenly something happened.

"Abraham! Abraham!" a voice from heaven boomed. The voice froze Abraham's hand in midair. Isaac's body stiffened. Abraham turned around.

"Here I am," he answered.

"Do not lay a hand on the boy," God said to Abraham. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son" (verses 11, 12, NIV).

Tears streamed down Abraham's face. His son didn't have to die! Then he saw something move in the bushes. A ram struggled to get his horns loose. Abraham knew that God had provided the ram for this moment. Together with Isaac, he bound the ram, placed it on the altar, and sacrificed it.

Abraham and his son knelt in thanksgiving. Suddenly Abraham realized what God wanted him to understand. He knew now that he could trust God to provide for salvation.

With eyes of faith Abraham could see into the future and understand that God would one day offer His Son, heaven's greatest gift, to provide for our salvation. Jesus sacrificed His life to save us from sin. It is by faith in Jesus that we have eternal life. With this realization Abraham named the place "The *Lord* Will Provide."



PUZZLE 6

JESUS' GIFT

Instructions: The answer to each clue appears in the grid. The first answer begins with the box numbered 1. You will find the answers by following the squares next to each other, either horizontally or vertically in either direction (but not diagonally). Each answer begins with the last letter of the previous answer. The first clue has been answered, and the squares have been numbered to help you. The answer will be the remaining six letters starting with the last letter of answer 13, which is part of Jesus' gift of salvation for us.

E	H	G	U	O	C$_{2}$	A	R
A	V	D	E$_{13}$	N	A	I	R
N	E	I	I$_{1}$	S	A	E	D$_{3}$
O	R	V	O	R	T	E$_{4}$	I
W$_{11}$	S	H	I	P$_{12}$	E	R	N
A	S$_{10}$	T	N	O	D$_{7}$	N	A
V	A	N	K	E	O	U	L$_{5}$
R	E	S$_{9}$	E	Y$_{8}$	B$_{6}$	M	A

Clues: Answers are found in Genesis 22 (NIV) or in this week's lesson study.

1. Abraham's son __ __ __ __ __ (verse 2).
2. Abraham __ __ __ __ __ __ __ the knife (verse 6).
3. God sent His Son, Jesus, to __ __ __ on the cross.
4. Jesus' death gives you the promise of __ __ __ __ __ __ __ life.
5. Isaac asked, "Where is the __ __ __ __ ?" (verse 7).
6. Abraham __ __ __ __ __ Isaac and placed him on the altar (verse 9).
7. Abraham loaded his __ __ __ __ __ __ (verse 3).
8. Abraham answered, "__ __ __ , my son?" (verse 7).
9. Abraham told his __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ to stay with the donkey (verse 5).
10. On the third day Abraham __ __ __ the place (verse 4).
11. Abraham said, "We will __ __ __ __ __ __ __" (verse 5).
12. Abraham told Isaac, "God himself will __ __ __ __ __ __ __ the lamb" (verse 8).
13. Abraham cut __ __ __ __ __ __ wood for the burnt offering (verse 3).

Answer: __ __ __ __ __ __