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The Boy and the Ram

Grace
We allow God's grace to transform us.

POWER TEXT

"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).

KEY REFERENCES

- Genesis 22:1-14
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 13, pp. 145-155
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 1, pp. 168-176
- Student lesson on page 72 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 10, The Experience of Salvation
- No. 3, The Father
- No. 22, Christian Behavior

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** Jesus has given His life for them so they can have salvation.
- **Feel** thankful for God's gift of grace through Jesus.
- **Respond** by accepting God's gift of grace through Jesus.

POWERPOINT

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

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God teaches Abraham about grace by asking him to sacrifice Isaac, his only son, the son of promise. Abraham and his son go to Mount Moriah, obeying God's command. When Isaac questions where the sacrificial animal is, Abraham answers simply, "God will provide." Just as Abraham is about to plunge the knife into Isaac, God stops him and shows him a ram caught by the horns in the brush. Abraham renames the place "The Lord Will Provide."

This is a lesson about grace.

Grace is what God does for us that we cannot do for ourselves. God, not Abraham, is the hero of this story. The essential lesson of grace is that God Himself provides the sacrifice. He dies in our place. By grace God gives us salvation.

Teacher Enrichment

Abraham and Isaac walked from Beersheba to Mount Moriah, near Jerusalem. They would have walked 50 or 60 miles (80 to 100 kilometers) in about three days, across a river valley and up through limestone plateaus, past chalk cliffs. This barren and jagged landscape is almost desertlike in appearance, with little vegetation on the hillsides except low thornbushes. Leaves of plants are often hairy, thick, and leathery, or coated with wax to prevent excess evaporation. Almonds, pistachios, figs, and raisins, which were pressed into cakes, provided nutrition for a long journey. The travelers would also have had to carry the water they needed for the trip.

How has God provided for me? What has God done for me that I cannot do for myself?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Go for the Goal*	Bibles, paper, crayons/markers, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
		B. Step Forward, Step Back	small, inexpensive prizes
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 67. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	six copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 148), name tags, simulated computers
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Losers Win*	prizes, rocks, game
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Commitment*	paper, art supplies
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments	
		B. Reminder to Parents	
		C. Coming Up Next Week	

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READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Go for the Goal

Discuss the concept of goal setting (an end toward which effort is directed) and give some examples (studying the Bible more, making good grades, being kind). Divide students into small groups, each with an adult facilitator. Give each group a large piece of paper and crayons. Ask the groups to make a list of class and personal goals for this year. After three to four minutes, ask the groups to star their two most important goals that they all agree on. After two to three minutes, ask each group to report the goals they agreed on. However they are not to call a goal that has already been mentioned. As they name their goals, a teacher or facilitator writes them on the board so all can see. (Leaders can collect all the goal lists for further insight into the class.)

Debriefing

Ask: **How do you feel about the goals your group agreed on?** (OK, great) **Are you really serious about achieving them?** (Picture for them what they and your class could be like if they achieved the goals.) **What do we need to do to accomplish these goals?** (Encourage one another, work hard, study, etc.) Read Romans 3:23. **What is this text saying?** (Even though we have good goals, we sometimes miss the mark.) **This is especially true when we try to do it on our own. But let's say together the power text, Genesis 22:14:**

"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).

Ask: **Upon what does being in God's family depend? Being part of God's family does not depend on what *we* do but on God's grace—what He did and does for us. Let's remember the power point:**

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

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ small, inexpensive prizes

Step Forward, Step Back

To get the students thinking about God's grace, have them form a line at one end of the room or outside in an appropriate area. Instruct them to take one step forward or back in response to various statements you make. Keep this moving, or they will get bored. Add some examples of your own that are more relevant for your group. Provide an inexpensive prize, such as a healthy treat, for the "winners."

Statements

If you were on time for Sabbath School today, take three steps forward.

If you were late for Sabbath School, take three steps back.

If you like to swim, take a step forward.

If you made your bed before you left home today, take two steps forward.

If you got out of bed without being asked, take two steps forward.

If you had to be asked to get out of bed, take two steps back.

If you treated someone in your family kindly today, take three steps forward.

If you treated someone in your family unkindly today, take three steps back.

If you were angry with someone at school this week, take one step back.

If you did not cheat on any of these questions, take three steps forward.

If you cheated even once, take three steps back.

Debriefing

Have the students return to their seats. Ask: **How did you feel about the way it turned out?** (It was not fair; it was OK;

great.) **Did the most deserving get the prize?** (No, the least deserving did.) Give everyone a treat.

Say: **Fortunately, getting to heaven is not about what we deserve, but about what God has already done by dying for us. In life we sometimes seem to be ahead; sometimes we seem to fall behind. Our job is to make sure we stay close to Jesus. Let's say together the power text, Genesis 22:14:**

"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).

Say: **Let's remember the power point:**

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

Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"It's About Grace" (see page 147)
"You Are My Hiding Place" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 96)
"For God So Loved the World" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 43)
"For God So Loves Us" (*Praise Time*, no. 24)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Collect the offering this month in a container that symbolizes grace. It could be a jug or pitcher (God pours His grace into our lives) or a gift-wrapped box with a tag addressed to God from the Sabbath School class. Explain that we do not give our offerings so God will love us but in response to what He has done to show His love to us.

Prayer

Thought Prayer: Begin prayer with the following sentence beginnings. Ask several students (all in a small setting) to complete the sentence you start. Add sentences of your choice that fit your particular situation. Pause between each thought. Say *amen* after the last thought.

"Thank You, Father, for the gift of grace, which gives us . . ."
"We praise Your name for being so . . ."
"We depend completely upon You because . . ."
"Please help our class to . . ."

Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

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BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ six scripts (p. 148)
- ☐ name tags
- ☐ simulated computers

Introducing the Bible Story

***The* Net Kids**

You will need scripts for six students, simulated computers, and name tags and/or flags with the names of the *Net Kids* on them.

To introduce the *Net Kids* to your class, say: **The *Net Kids* are an imaginary international group of children ages 11-14 who communicate regularly through e-mail. Emiko and Darren met in a teen Christian chat room and found out that they were both Seventh-day Adventists. They then created a chat room for Adventist juniors and teens and the other four joined. They get together as often as they can through the Internet.**

Ulla:	**11-year-old girl**	**Sweden**
Ivan:	**12-year-old boy**	**Russia**
Tendai:	**12-year-old boy**	**Zimbabwe**
Ana:	**13-year-old girl**	**U.S.A.**
Darren:	**13-year-old boy**	**Australia**
Emiko:	**14-year-old girl**	**Japan**

Arrange the students at desks, or chairs turned around as desks if no desks are available. Have them tap as they read their part, to simulate typing at a computer keyboard. Present the skit. (See page 148.)

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you learn from this skit? How does it help you understand the meaning of the word *grace*? What do you think grace is? What Bible stories do you know that show grace?** (Any story in which God saves His people or gives victory or blesses His people—Jericho, Queen Esther, etc.)

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Ask everyone to turn to Genesis 22:1-14. Read the story, going around the class with each volunteer reading one verse. Stop the story at the following points to ask students to tell what they think of each character at certain points in the story.

Stopping points:

Verse 2, the first mention of Isaac. **How do you picture Isaac?**

Verse 3, Abraham. **What kind of father do you picture Abraham to be?**

Verse 4, end of verse. **What do you think they saw in the distance?**

Verse 6, end of verse. **How do you think it felt carrying the wood?**

Verse 9. **What must Isaac have felt as he lay bound on the altar?**

Verse 11. **How might Abraham and Isaac have felt when they heard God's voice?**

Debriefing

Ask: **This is a story about God's grace. What do you think this story tells us about God's grace?** (That God puts Himself in our place.)

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Ask: **What is a ram?** (a male sheep)
Why do you think that the animal caught in the thicket was a ram? Have students read John 1:29. Say: **Jesus is called the Lamb of God because He was the one sacrificed for us. When sheep were sacrificed during Old Testament times, they were a symbol of Jesus, who would die to give us the gift of salvation. Let's look at different things rams were used for:** (Have students look up and read the following texts and comment on what they find.)

Genesis 31:38	food
2 Kings 3:4	wool for cloth
Leviticus 5:15	guilt offering
Numbers 6:14	peace or fellowship offering

Ask: **What do each of these uses for rams remind you about Jesus?** (If appropriate for your age group, discuss Jesus as the Bread of Life, the Robe of Righteousness, the sacrifice to take away our guilt, and the mediator to bring us back into peace and fellowship with God.) **Let's say together the power text, Genesis 22:14:**

"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).

Let's remember our power point:

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

YOU NEED:
- ☐ prizes
- ☐ rocks
- ☐ game

Losers Win

In advance, prepare prizes or treats for each student, and a pebble or rock for half of the students. Divide the class into two groups. Create a scenario or game in which the losers "win" and the winners "lose." Use a relay, treasure hunt, trivia game or other activity you may have in your classroom. At the end of the game congratulate the losers and offer them the "prize" that the winners deserve, saying: **Here is the prize that the winners have earned, congratulations!** Say to the winners: **Here is a rock that the "losers" deserve**.

Wait for the reactions of the students. They will complain that your choice to reward them in that way is not fair.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why do you think the rewards were unfair? How is this like what Jesus did for us as the Lamb of God? How does this demonstrate God's grace to us?** Give the "winners" the rest of the "real" prizes, and say: **Because of what Jesus did for us, we all get the prize that He deserves and He took the death we deserved! As our power point reminds us:**

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

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ art supplies
- ☐ paper

Commitment

Invite students to share if they had a chance to tell someone about the wonderful gift of God's grace. Ask: **Did you have a chance during the past week to encourage someone with the promise from Abraham's story? Did you mention that God provides for all of our needs and that His grace offers solutions even to situations that seem hopeless? How did your friend respond?**

Challenge the students to think of the biggest disaster that could possibly befall them. Then assure them: **There is no disaster too big for God, because He already provided a solution to the greatest disaster of all. What does God consider to be the greatest disaster? Sin. Because sinners will die forever. But we need not fear. God's grace is available to us, and by accepting it, we receive the gift of salvation.**

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

Using art supplies that you keep on hand, have the students take 10-15 minutes to create a poster, a greeting card, a song, or a poem that expresses specifically how God has provided for them. When time is up, have each one share what they have made with the class and explain how it will help them remember today's power point. Challenge the students to share this good news of grace with someone.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Close with a prayer of thanksgiving to God for putting Himself in our place. Ask for His Spirit to go with the students as they share the good news of His grace.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Jacob wrestles with God. Our heavenly Father blesses us when we seek Him.**

Notes

Student lesson

The Boy and the Ram

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.

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. 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."

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

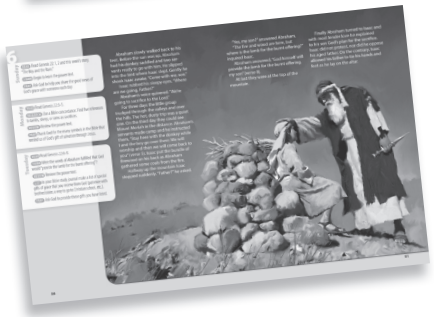
POWER TEXT

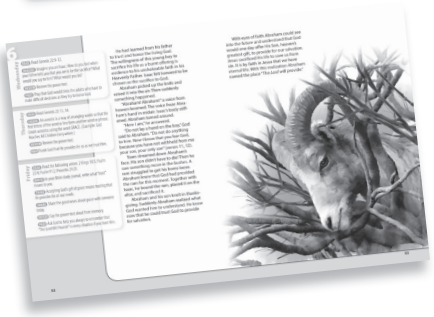
"So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, 'On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided'" (Genesis 22:14, NIV).

POWER POINT

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







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 47.

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.

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.