

Grades 3-5
Session 8

Abraham is Tested

Opening Prayer

Sign of the cross and the Our Father

We know from the other stories about Abraham that God keeps his promises to Abraham and that Abraham trusted God. Even when things looked impossible, Abraham never lost faith even when he didn't understand what God's plan was.

- God asked him to pick up and move with no explanation and no destination when he was already an old man.
- God also promised descendants, but when He made the promise he was really old again.

Read together Genesis 22:1-19

Discussion questions?

1. Why do you suppose Abraham would listen to God now, since this was such a hard thing to do? (Everytime God asked Abraham to do anything that was hard, God gave Abraham blessings that were big. Everything always worked out even when Abraham didn't understand.
2. Do you ever have to do something or go somewhere out of the ordinary when you don't understand why?
3. When you trust Mom or Dad and do as you're told even when you don't quite understand, are they really just taking good care of you?

Just like you look to your parents to take care of you, Abraham looked to God because God is a Good Father.

Last week's lesson told us of someone else that trusted God about a baby. We learned about Mary and Joseph and their "yes" to God even when they didn't know how things were going to go. This lesson is a little like that as well. But this time we are going to look at Abraham and Isaac and compare them to God the Father and Jesus.

Back before Christ came and freed us all from sin, men would offer sacrifices as a way to give something good to God that was theirs as a way to thank God and as a way to say sorry to God when they didn't do the right thing. That is why they had sacrifices. Sometimes they were grains and fruit and other things that were valuable and sometimes they were living things. Those were usually sacrifices to say sorry.

God asked Abraham to trust him and at the same time, even though Isaac found out about what was going to happen later in the story, Isaac even trusted God to the point that he would lay

down his life at God's command. Remember that Abraham was really, really old and Isaac by this time was a young man. Isaac or Abraham neither one knew the details of God's plan but they were prepared to obey him and trust him. Later would come Jesus.

Jesus was also a sacrifice for our sins, offered freely, only this time there was no ram to take his place. Jesus is God though so his sacrifice didn't just take away the sins of a few people right then, but it took away the sins of the world now and forever. Jesus trusted the Father because Jesus knows that He is a Good Father.

Just like last week's lesson, take a piece of paper and either draw a line down the middle or fold it in half the long way and write the similarities and differences with your child that you notice between Abraham and Isaac and God the Father and God the Son, Jesus.

Optional:

Print off the PDF titled "Abraham is Tested" and complete the craft by coloring in the ram and filling in the body with cotton balls or other fluffy stuff. If you would like to show your ram off on our Facebook page, send a picture to fischbachj@stcharleslima.org

Closing Prayer Closing prayer

Sign of the cross, Our Father, and finish the prayer with a special blessing on the child/children by the parents.

Here is a fun song to sing and dance to

Father Abraham Lyric & Dance Video/ Kids on the Move

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASXowiv3FAc>

Prayer Focus for this week!

In your child's PSR folder there is a prayer booklet. Most of the prayers in here are familiar, but there may be a couple that are not. Please take some time and go through them with your child and talk about what the prayers mean so that they understand what they are asking for and who they are asking.

It is important for the kids to understand that when we pray to the saints, that they see through looking at the words of the prayers, that we are never worshiping anyone except God, that we ask for Mary to pray for us and with us to Jesus, her Son, that we ask St. Michael for protection but know that he is sent by God and that God commands him. Any prayer to the saints that we have asks for guidance and help and they are a good resource. It pleases God when we ask help from those who went before us and lived well. And when we ask them to pray for us and with us, our prayers can be more powerful since now there are 2 praying together.

It is also good to know that there is never a time when we call on God that the Holy Spirit is not within us prompting us to prayer. It's like a subtle phone call that we choose to either pick up or ignore. The Holy Spirit is calling us because God wants to hear from us often like a loving Father does, and He wants to hear about everything even though he already knows, God wants us to know how much He loves us and He will never stop listening to us whenever we call on Him. As parents, you understand this and can explain it well because you know how much you want to hear everything that is important to your kids in their day.

We can never stress this enough to our young people because the older we get in our youth, the more we forget how much God wants to be part of our every day. But when we are young, it is easy to understand and accept, so if your child understands well now, when they are older and they get to the question-everything ages, this truth will stick with them, even if they put it aside for a while.

God Bless!