

Adventures with GOD!

ABRAHAM AND SARAH AND THEIR FAITH OFFERING (B.3.FALL.12)

Biblical Reference	Genesis 22:1-18
Key Verse	Hebrews 11:1
Key Concept	God asks for my obedience even when it seems impossible.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell in their own words how Abraham and Sarah obeyed God 2. Describe how God responded to their obedience 3. Explain why we obey God

LIFE APPLICATION

God asked that Abraham sacrifice his only son. This was an incredibly difficult request to accept. Even though it didn't make any sense, they obeyed God and God showed up in an amazing way. This week the children will have the opportunity to talk about what obedience to God looks like and why we obey God. Obedience isn't always easy, but we can trust that God is in control and loves us with a steadfast love.

Possible activities and class plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Introduction		5 minutes
Bible exploration	Bibles	10 minutes
Game	See instructions	10 minutes
Activity	Several options	10 minutes
My GROW adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute

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Instructions

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do so first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out-stretched, palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the biblical reference for the day (Genesis 22:1-18) two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you through the story?

Introduction: Today's Bible story teaches us that sometimes God asks us to do things that seem very difficult and merely impossible. However, we trust that God is in control and will be faithful as we obey. As children sometimes we can feel angry or frustrated when our parents ask us to do things when we don't understand the reason, for example giving away something of ours to share with another child. Spend some time talking about how we feel when we are asked to give something away that we really love. Does it make us feel anger? Confusion? Sadness? Joy? There was a time when Abraham and Sarah were asked to give away something they loved very much and it seemed like an impossible request from God.

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Bible exploration: Together look at the map and see where the journey has taken Abraham and Sarah. Today's story is about a time when God asked something from Abraham and Sarah. Ask the children what they imagine God could have asked for them as an offering? Together read the story in the Bible (Genesis 22:1-18), or tell it using illustrations, or ask a few children to help act it out as you read. In this story they will learn:

- That Abraham and Sarah obeyed God even though it was difficult.
- God asked them to sacrifice their son as an offering.
- Abraham was prepared to obey God.
- The Lord spoke to Abraham and told him not to hurt his son and provided a ram to use for the offering.
- God promised Abraham that his offspring would be as numerous as the stars because he was obedient to God.

It's very important to point out that Abraham and Sarah loved their son Isaac, but at the same time they loved God. They must have had a lot of faith that God was in control and would be faithful if they were willing to obey what he asked of them. What does God ask of us? What does the Bible tell us that faith looks like? Together learn the memory verse Hebrews 11:1.

Game: Make up 20 or more questions related to the life of Abraham and Sarah and their journey of faith. Write each question on the back of a cut out star. In teams they will have the opportunity to choose stars and answer the questions. See the instructions in the following pages.

Activity: There are several activities to choose from in the following pages. Choose the one that works best for your group or offer them the choice of which activity to do. Activity 1 is called "The offering." If you decide to do this activity you will need to make one copy of the activity sheet for each child. They will have the opportunity to draw and color some of the things they most love. In Activity 2, "We are one big family" each child should receive an activity sheet, which focuses on the fact that we are all part of the family of God as we have chosen to follow Jesus and love and obey God.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

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W: Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen.



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ILLUSTRATION



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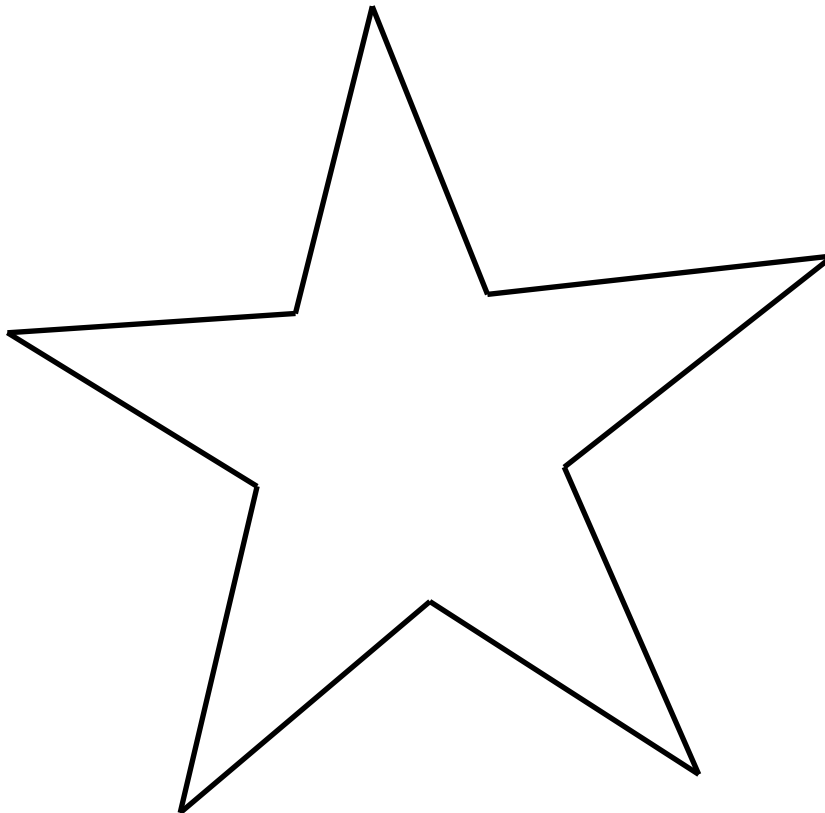
GAME

God promised Abraham and Sarah that their descendants would more as numerous as the stars. This game uses the symbol of the star and helps children to remember the story of the journey of faith that Abraham and Sarah were on. It will also remind them of God's promises to us, who are a part of God's family and descendants of Abraham and Sarah.

Instructions for the teacher:

Make as many stars as you have questions. Write a question related to the story of Abraham and Sarah on each star. Have all of the questions written out and have the stars taped up to the wall or white board (face down). Each child will have a turn to choose a star and answer the question on the star. If the child answers correctly, he or she may keep the star. The child or team with the most stars is the winner.

Pattern for the star:



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ACTIVITY SHEET 1

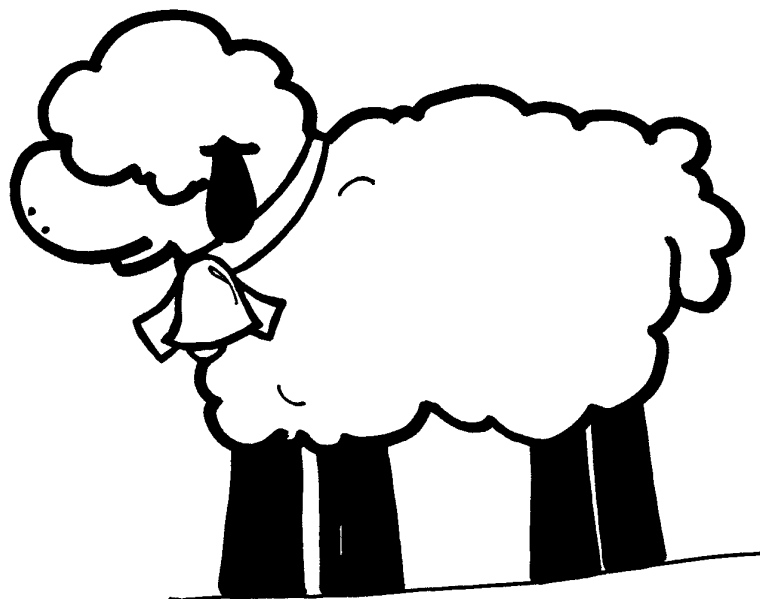
THE OFFERING

God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son and he was prepared to obey God. But, God stopped him and provided a ram for Abraham to use as a sacrifice instead. How much must Abraham have loved and trusted God if he was willing to give his only son to God?

The ram represents the gift of God for Abraham and Sarah. Jesus is a gift that God has given us, as it is by his dying on the cross that we are saved and have life with God. Jesus is like the ram that was sacrificed to God for us.

Write a list of things that you love and that would be very hard for you to give away. Give thanks to God for all you have been given and ask God to help you be obedient and generous, following in the example of Abraham and Sarah.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



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ACTIVITY SHEET 2

WE ARE ONE BIG FAMILY

One of the blessings that Abraham and Sarah were promised as a result of their obedience was that they would be the beginning of a big family; that they would be the founders of a new nation. Color this picture and then use an X to mark the spot where you live. No matter where we are born or where we live, when we trust and follow Jesus and love God with all our heart, soul and mind we are a part of the same family.

