

STORIES WITHIN THE TRUE STORY



Week Five - Abraham A Note to the Parents/Teachers

Some of the things Abraham does, and what God asks him to do, can be difficult to swallow. We can only see how it fits into a good God's plan when we see it through the lens of the whole story of the Bible. Be sure to not tell this story to the kids as an isolated event, but a part of God's whole plan of restoration and salvation!

• Big Idea: Following God is hard, but His promises are always good!

Starter

• Evidences of Grace

Take some time to ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work this week, month, or even past year. Anything, big or small, that is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.

• Go Where I Tell You

Blindfold a volunteer kid and tell them where to walk around the room. Let some of the other kids take turns giving them directions. See how much the blindfolded child trusts the directions. Talk about how the story today discusses Abraham learning to follow God even when he doesn't know where he'll be sent.

Sing Together



Story - from Genesis 12, 15 & 22

One of Noah's sons, Shem, had a great-grea

Abram was seventy-five years old when he left, just as God told him to. Abram took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot with him, along with all the possessions and people they had, and set out for the land of Canaan and arrived safe and sound. God appeared and said, "I will give this land to your children one day." Abram built an altar in worship, then kept moving.

Throughout the years they traveled and stayed in different lands. Abraham and his family gained a lot of wealth, cattle, and land. But he still never had any children. He asked God, "When will your promise come? I'm going to die an old man and I'll have to leave all of my belongings to my servant Eliezer." God said, "No, Abram. You will have a son of your own. Look up at the stars. See how many there are? Your descendants will be like that - you won't be able to count them!"

Abram believed God, so God said that they had a right relationship. All God wanted from Abram was for him to trust. But, there were times when Abram got impatient and he and Sarai took matters into their own hands. This caused a lot of problems between them, their family, and the other people around them.

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Still, God reminded Abram of His promise to make a great nation from him and changed his name to Abraham. He changed Sarai's name to Sarah. Eventually, when they were in their nineties, God fulfilled His promise and gave Abraham a son, named Isaac. Then God asked Abraham to do something tragic - to sacrifice his own son! Instead of an animal, God wanted Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham took Isaac up a mountain. He carried a flint to start a fire and a knife, but Isaac carried the very wood he would die on himself.

Isaac asked his father, "Where is the animal to sacrifice?", not knowing it would be him. Abraham simply replied, "God will provide. At the top of the mountain, just as Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac, God spoke, "Stop! I will bless you and Isaac and all your descendants because you were willing to sacrifice even your own son! But you don't have to." Abraham looked up and saw a ram stuck in the bushes, so that became their sacrifice.



[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- God asked Abraham to do some hard things like leave his home not knowing where he would go, trust God would give him children even though he was too old, and then to sacrifice his own son! Why do you think God would ask these things?
- Why do you think God chose Abraham to make a great nation? Was he perfect? Did he trust God, even though he made mistakes?
- Isaac carried the wood he would die on up a mountain, to be sacrificed by his own father. Does this sound like anyone else we know of from the Bible? (let the kids answer - Jesus!)
- Though God was testing him, Abraham wouldn't be the one to sacrifice his own son. God was showing us a preview that He would be the One to sacrifice His own Son for us such later!

Breakout Time

· Prayer:

God, help us to follow You even when You ask us to do hard things. Help us to trust that You always know what is best. Thank You for loving us. Amen.

Craft:

Use the coloring sheet attached.

• BLESS Activity: *For kids to do during the week*

Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Listen** rhythm. Abraham had to learn to listen to God's voice and obey. Take some time to listen to God this week. You can listen to the Bible, or sit in silence after praying for God to speak.

