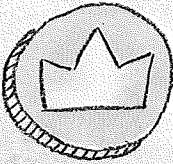


THE GOSPEL

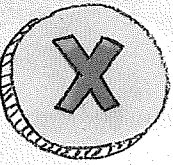
GOD'S PLAN for US

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.



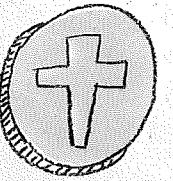
GOD RULES.

Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



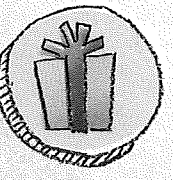
WE SINNED.

Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



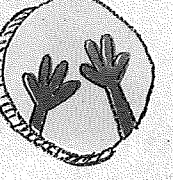
GOD PROVIDED.

Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



JESUS GIVES.

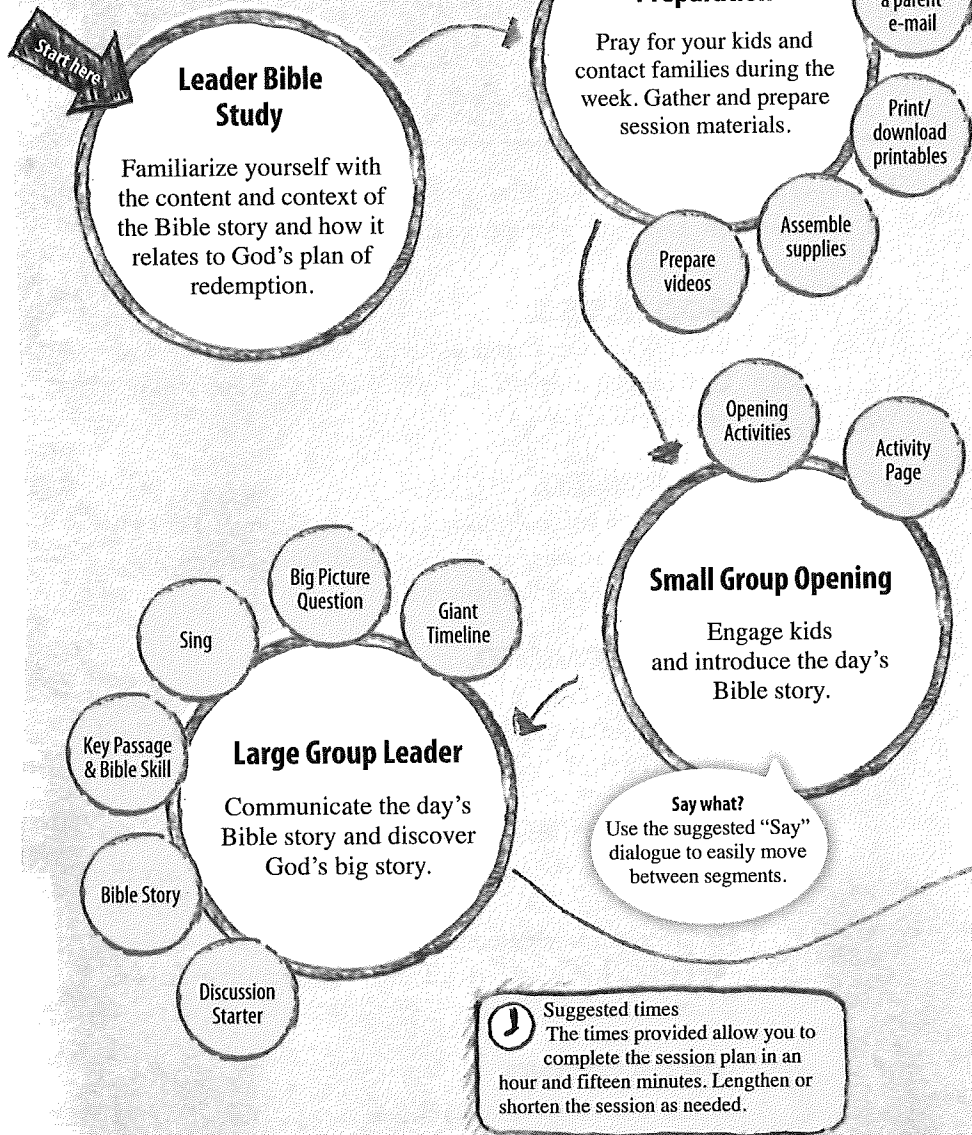
Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND.

Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.

Bible Study at a Glance



you win an important game and brag about how well you played or you make the best grade on a test and brag about it to your friends? You probably don't feel quite as great about it as you did when it happened.

Our glory doesn't last. One minute, everyone says you are great, and the next minute no one remembers what you did. How does that remind us that we should focus on giving glory to God? Our glory doesn't last long, but God's glory lasts forever! We can give Him glory by obeying Him and pointing others to Him.

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the coloring page provided with this session. Pray, thanking God for showing us that He is the only One worthy of glory. Ask God to help everyone present to give glory to God instead of seeking glory for themselves. Pray that others would begin to love and trust Jesus because of the way that kids give glory to God by obeying Him.

Unit 2: God the Covenant-Maker

Unit Description:

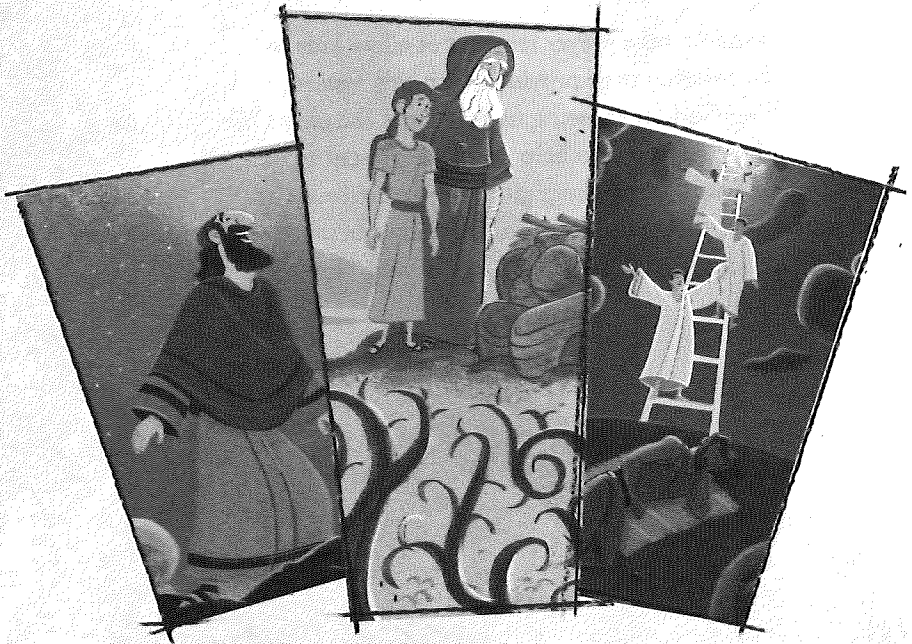
God entered a covenant relationship with Abraham and all of his descendants to continue His plan of redemption. It is through this family, the nation of Israel, that God would bless the entire world by bringing forth the Messiah, Jesus.

Unit Key Passage:

Romans 4:3

Big Picture Question:

What did God promise? God made a covenant to bless His people.



and He did bless the world through Abraham. Jesus came from Abraham's family and came to pay for sin on the cross and rise again three days later! Jesus brings people back to a right relationship with God and that is the greatest blessing we could receive.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child's journal and instruct the kids to draw a picture of one thing that God has blessed them with. Writers may list the blessings that they have received from God. If they need a little help, guide kids to think about their families, the things they have that they need, and so forth.

SAY • God promised to bless all the world through

Abraham. God has blessed us in so many ways, but

Jesus is the greatest blessing that God has given us!

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the coloring page provided with this session. Pray, thanking God for giving people so many great gifts. Thank God for keeping His promise to Abraham and blessing all the world through his family, including the greatest gift—Jesus!

- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons or markers
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Kids*

God Tested Abraham

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 22:1-19

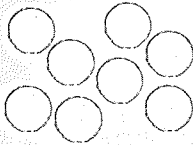
MAIN POINT: Abraham trusted God even when he didn't understand God's plan.

KEY PASSAGE: Romans 4:3

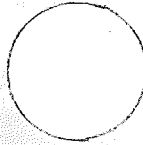
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What did God promise? God made a covenant to bless His people.

2

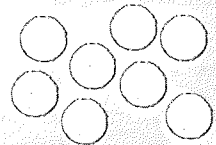
SMALL GROUP OPENING
(10–15 MINUTES)
PAGE 124



LARGE BIBLE STUDY
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 126



SMALL GROUP LEADER
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 132



Leader BIBLE STUDY

When Abraham was well over 100 years old, he received another message from God. It was a test, actually. God instructed Abraham to take his son Isaac, the son of promise, and sacrifice him on a mountain God would tell him about. Abraham had waited so many years for this child!

But Abraham obeyed. He got up early the next day and left for his trip. Not waiting around to see if God would change His mind, he saddled the donkey, took the wood, two servants, and his son, and left on the journey as God commanded.

As Isaac walked with his father, he noticed something was missing. They had the wood and the fire, but “Where is the lamb?” Isaac asked. Abraham answered that God Himself would provide. And God did indeed.

By this point, Abraham had supreme faith that God was able to do anything. Hebrews 11:17-19 gives us a peek inside Abraham’s mind: “He considered God to be able even to raise someone from the dead.”

God provided a ram for the burnt offering in place of Isaac, who was spared. After what we might imagine was quite a worship service, Abraham and Isaac returned home.

In the New Testament, God brings through John the Baptist the final answer to Isaac’s inquiry, “Where is the lamb?” “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). God provided a ram for Abraham, but for all of humanity He has provided His Son, Jesus Christ, the ultimate sacrifice for sin.



MINISTRY GRID
training made simple

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The BIBLE STORY

God Tested Abraham

Genesis 22:1-19

God kept His promise to give Abraham a son. Abraham and his wife Sarah were very old when their son Isaac was born. One day, God tested Abraham. God wanted to make sure that Abraham loved God most of all.

“Abraham,” God said.

“Here I am,” Abraham answered.

“Take your son Isaac to the mountain and give him to Me as a sacrifice,” God said.

A *sacrifice* is anything of value brought to God as a way to show obedience, love, thanksgiving, or the need for forgiveness. During Old Testament times, a sacrifice usually involved killing an animal. This time, God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac instead.

Abraham obeyed God. He got up early the next day and left with Isaac, two servants, and a donkey carrying supplies. They walked for three days before they got to the mountain where God wanted Abraham to make the sacrifice. Abraham asked his servants to stay with the donkey, and he **and Isaac went up the mountain with the supplies for the sacrifice.**

Isaac noticed something was missing. “My father,” he said, “where is the lamb for the offering?”

Abraham answered, “God Himself will provide the lamb.”

When they got to the place God had directed them, Abraham built an altar and placed the wood on top. Then he put Isaac on top of the wood. **Just as Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac, the Angel of the Lord called out,**

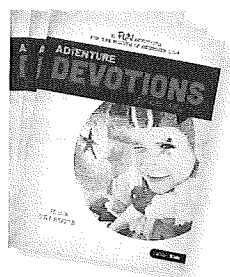
“Abraham, Abraham!”

Abraham stopped. The Angel of the Lord said, “Do not lay a hand on the boy or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your only son from Me.”

Abraham looked up and saw a ram trapped by its horns in the bushes. He offered to God the ram instead of Isaac. Abraham named the place, “The Lord Will Provide.”

The Angel of the Lord reminded Abraham that God would keep the covenant He made with Abraham. God again promised to bless Abraham, to make his family as numerous as all the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashores. God promised victory over Abraham’s enemies and blessing to all the earth through Abraham’s family.

Christ Connection: Abraham showed his love for God by being willing to sacrifice his son Isaac. This is how God showed His love for us: He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that we could have eternal life through Him.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S
WORD? GET
ADVENTURE!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover that just as God provided a ram as a substitute for Isaac, He provided His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrifice for sin. (1 John 2:12) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Large Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: God Tested Abraham

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 22:1-19

MAIN POINT: Abraham trusted God even when he didn't understand God's plan.

KEY PASSAGE: Romans 4:3

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What did God promise? God made a covenant to bless His people.

Countdown

- countdown video Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

Introduce the session (2 minutes)

- Leader attire:
semi-formal attire

[Large Group Leader enters wearing clothes that might be worn to a wedding.]

LEADER • Hello, friends! I didn't know you were still at this wedding. *[mumbling]* I didn't realize that this wedding was such an event. I thought that it would be over last week when we were together, but I found out the wedding isn't actually happening until next week. I'm glad we can all celebrate for so long though! A wedding is a big deal, because it's a picture of God's love for us and commitment to His people.

Giant timeline (2 minutes)

- Giant Timeline or
Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster

LEADER • Let's review what we learned last week. Do you remember how Abraham's story began? Abraham trusted God, and **God promised to bless all the world through Abraham.** Abraham and his wife Sarah were very old, but they trusted that God would indeed make their descendants as numerous as the

stars because they knew that God always keeps His promises. God gave Abraham and Sarah a son, and they named him Isaac.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Now, after Abraham waited so long for Isaac, God asked Abraham to give Isaac to Him. As difficult as it sounded, Abraham knew that he could trust God. God had already kept His promise to give him a son, and Abraham knew that God would continue to keep His promises to him. ***What did God promise? God made a covenant to bless His people.*** Today's story continued this promise.

• Big Picture Question Poster

Key passage (4 minutes)

LEADER • Our key passage reminds us that Abraham chose to believe God, and because of his faith, God credited righteousness to Abraham. Now, this doesn't mean that Abraham never messed up. God chose to forgive Abraham because God planned to send Jesus to earth to die and rise again once to take away sins for all time for anyone who believes in Him. We are credited with Jesus' righteousness when we trust Him. God sees us as if we have not sinned because of Jesus' payment for our sin on the cross.

• Key Passage Poster
• "Abraham" song

Sing together "Abraham."

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • Let's sing and thank God for sending Jesus so that we could be credited with His righteousness. God promised long ago to send a Messiah to pay for sin, and God kept His promise by sending Jesus. We

• "Always Faithful" song

can trust that God is always faithful, no matter what situation we face!

Sing together “Always Faithful.”

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

- Bibles
- “God Tested Abraham” Video
- Bible Story Picture Slide or Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

LEADER • Our story today comes from Genesis 22, where we will get to learn more about Abraham and his faith in God. God made a covenant, or promise, with Abraham to make His descendants as numerous as the stars. God also promised that He would bless all the world through Abraham. In today’s story, **Abraham trusted God even when he didn’t understand God’s plan.**

Open your Bible to Genesis 22. Show the video or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. For a shorter version of the story, read the bolded text.

LEADER • Last week we learned about God’s promise to Abraham to give him as many descendants as there were stars in the sky. God kept His promise to give Abraham and Sarah a son, and they named him Isaac. Abraham had waited a long time for this promise. Then, God asked Abraham to take Isaac up to a mountain and sacrifice him to the Lord there.

Isaac was the son God had promised Abraham, and Abraham trusted that God would not break that promise. Abraham did not know what God had planned, but Abraham trusted that God would take care of Isaac. Hebrews 11:17-19 tells us that Abraham knew that God could even raise Isaac from the dead. This test of Abraham’s faith didn’t make it to that point, though. Abraham and Isaac got to the spot where the sacrifice would be made and set

up the altar. Then, the angel of the Lord stopped Abraham from sacrificing Isaac, and God provided a ram caught in a thicket. Even when Abraham didn't understand God's plan, he still obeyed and trusted God to be faithful to His promises.

This event would show God's people what would happen when He sent Jesus. Jesus is God's Son, sent to earth as the perfect sacrifice to pay for sin.

Ask the following review questions:

1. What did God tell Abraham to do? (*take Isaac to the mountain and give Him to God as a sacrifice, Genesis 22:2*)
2. How did Abraham respond to God's request? (*He did just as God said to do, Genesis 22:3-6*)
3. How did God provide for Abraham and Isaac? (*He provided a ram as a sacrifice, Genesis 22:13*)
4. ***What did God promise? God made a covenant to bless His people.***

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • Abraham trusted God even when he didn't understand God's plan. God was showing Abraham and all of God's people who would come after Abraham a symbol of what would happen when Jesus came. The punishment for sin is death, and that is what each of us deserve. Instead, God provided Jesus as the sacrifice in our place. God has proven over and over again that He can be trusted. God always keeps His promises! Let's watch our discussion starter video and talk more about whom we can trust.

Show the "Unit 2, Session 2" video.

LEADER • Do you think that Jacob's friends should trust

• "Unit 2, Session 2"
discussion starter
video

the game wins.

SAY • Some of these instructions didn't make sense, but you obeyed my instructions anyway. **Abraham trusted God even when he didn't understand God's plan.** We can obey God, even when we don't understand His plan. God is good and He is faithful. He loves people and promises to care for those who trust Him. We can trust that God does what is best for us, even when it doesn't seem to make sense.

OPTION 2: Water bottle seek

Give each child an empty water bottle and guide him to place a star bead of each available color and a small plastic ram into his bottle. Then, help each child fill his bottle with rice to where the top of the label would have been. Place the cap on the bottle and secure it with duct tape. Guide kids to turn their bottles to find the stars and ram.

SAY • God promised Abraham that He would bless all the world through his family. God told Abraham that his family would be as numerous as the stars! Abraham waited many years for a son, whom he named Isaac. Then God asked Abraham to take Isaac to a mountain and sacrifice him to God. Abraham obeyed God. He trusted God, and God provided a ram, or a substitute, instead of Isaac.

Jesus is our substitute. Jesus died on the cross so we don't have to die to pay the punishment for our sins when we trust in Him. **Abraham trusted God even when he didn't understand God's plan.**

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child's journal and instruct the kids to list

- empty water bottles, 1 per kid
- star beads, 10 or so per kid
- small plastic rams, 1 per kid
- uncooked rice
- duct tape

- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons or markers
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Kids*

or draw their favorite five toys. Ask them how they would feel if God asked them to give up those five items. Ask writers to write a sentence or two describing how Abraham must have felt. Then, guide all kids to write *I can trust God, even when it's hard*.

SAY • Abraham trusted God even when he didn't

understand God's plan. We can trust God in every situation, too. We know God will be faithful to us because He has always been faithful to His people. The Bible teaches us that God will continue to be good to us.

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the coloring page provided with this session. Pray, thanking God for giving us a picture of what He would do for us through Jesus in this story. Ask God to help kids remember that He is good, faithful, and in control even when they don't understand His plan.