

Lesson 6: Genesis 22
“Now I Know”

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Introduction

Suppose God gave you something you really wanted and then He wanted it back. How would this make you feel toward God? After Ishmael and Hagar leave, Abraham and his family live peacefully. Isaac continues to grow and we pick up the story again when Isaac is about 25 years old and Abraham is given a very hard test.

Progression of Events

Abraham greatly loved Isaac because he was a child from his old age. Isaac was very easy to love because he obeyed his parents and loved God. This is how all children who believe in God should be. Abraham knew that when he died, Isaac would be able to take over as head of the family and continue to be an example to the nations around him.

Because Abraham loved Isaac so much, the next thing God asked him to do would be very difficult. God called to Abraham, and Abraham responded, “Here I am.”

God tells Abraham to take the son he loves and offer him as a burnt offering on a mountain in the land of Moriah.

Abraham has grown a lot in his relationship with God by this time. Rather than trying to bargain with God or disobey God, he immediately sets out for the land of Moriah the next morning. Imagine if all of us were this faith-filled! We would believe in God and act immediately upon His command. This is how He desires us to act.

Abraham took Isaac, two servants, and wood for the offering with him. A donkey bore the load. The group traveled for three days when Abraham saw the place where God had told him.

Abraham left the two servants and the donkey and told them to stay in a place while he and Isaac went forth to worship God. Abraham told them he would return shortly.

Isaac carried the wood and Abraham took the fire and a knife. They went on ahead. Isaac spoke to his father saying they had the wood and the fire for the offering, but where is the lamb? Abraham replied that God would provide a lamb for the burnt offering. They kept walking until they came to the place God had told Abraham of.

Abraham built an altar and laid the wood in order. Then he bound his beloved son Isaac and laid him on the altar. Can you imagine his emotion? The child he longed for all of those years and now he must be prepared to believe in God and act faithfully. This is the most important event in Abraham’s life this far. God was waiting to see what he would do.

Abraham lifted his hand to slay his son as God had commanded him. Notice how he trusted God would fulfill His promise of building a great nation from Abraham’s seed and the fulfillment of His promise would be through Isaac. Abraham has learned to fully trust God even when things look very dim.

We must also look at the faith that Isaac had developed in God. As a 25-year-old man, he resigned himself to God's will even if it meant losing his life. Both of these men showed great faith in a situation that looked grim.

As Abraham lifted his hand to slay his son, the angel of the Lord called to him saying "Abraham, Abraham!" Abraham answered, "Here am I." The angel of the Lord responded, "Do not lay your hand upon the lad. For now I know that you fear God seeing that you have not withheld your son, your only son from Me" (Genesis 22:12).

Abraham lifted his eyes and saw a ram caught in a thicket by his horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. Remember in the beginning of this account when Isaac asked where the lamb was for the offering? Abraham said that God would provide the lamb and indeed He did! God used this opportunity to examine Abraham's faith and also to show His great hand in Abraham's life still!

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time. The promises God gave to Abraham are repeated to him.

"That in blessing I will bless you and in multiplying I will multiply your seed as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed My voice" (Genesis 22:17,18).

This promise given to Abraham has been fulfilled in the building of this country. We are living the blessing God explained to Abraham. All of the nations of the world have been blessed because of the seed of Abraham.

When we first met Abraham in the early lessons, we met a man that lied to protect his life, risked Sarah's well being to enrich himself, and use another woman to be the mother of his child instead of waiting for God's promise.

Now, at the last part of his life, Abraham has truly changed. He realizes the most important thing is to trust in God and do what is right in God's eyes.

It is important for all of us to have the same type of faith in God and in His timeline for our life. It is important for us to remain truthful, honest, obedient children to our God, and to raise our children in the same manner.

Here at the Feast of Tabernacles we have learned a lot about faith. Abraham had a close relationship with God and our relationship with Him is just as important. The relationship begins with faith. Faith helps us know we have been delivered from our past through the death of Christ. Our hope grows as we learn about all that God has in mind for us. It is a future full of promise.

Questions for Discussion

1. What did God command Abraham to do with Isaac?
2. Who went with Abraham to Mount Moriah?
3. When did the angel of the Lord stop Abraham?
4. What did the angel of the Lord tell Abraham?
5. What did Abraham sacrifice in place of his son?
6. How has Abraham changed through the course of his life?

7. Was God pleased with Abraham's behavior? How can you tell?
8. What is faith?
9. How did Abraham exhibit faith in his life?

Memory Verse

“Do not lay a hand on the boy,’ he said. ‘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.’”(Genesis 22:12)

JUST FOR TEENS!

Just as God waited to see Abraham's faith by his actions, He is waiting to see our faith by our actions. God can tell the contents of your heart by the things you do. If you are loving, kind, helpful, and positive, that tells God that one thing. If you are angry, deceitful, or negative, that tells God quite a different thing.

Today teens will sort certain actions into groups. They will decide if the actions demonstrate a heart that God would reside in or if instead God would not feel welcome. After the teens sort the actions, talk about each action and what it tells about the contents of your heart. Follow with a discussion about the importance of making your actions represent who you are on the inside.

Copy one word sort per group of 2-3 teens on the next page. Students will cut the words apart and then sort them into groups that have a similar reflection on the contents of your heart. For example, visiting the sick and writing a letter might demonstrate that you have love in your heart.

Actions Word Sort

What do these actions say about the content of your heart?

Getting a tattoo	Multiple body piercings	Volunteering
Helping a friend	Visiting the sick	Writing a thank you letter
Drinking alcohol	Encouraging someone going through a tough time	Being disobedient to your parents
Talking disrespectfully to adults	Having road rage	Destroying someone's property
Using drugs	Watching hours of music videos	Visiting internet sites and chat rooms that your parents wouldn't approve of
Speeding	Helping your mom cook dinner	Doing chores without complaining
Completing your homework on time.	Helping your brother or sister with a problem	Teaching someone how to do something new

Actions Web

This fun activity will help children keep in mind all of the positive actions God expects us to have in our lives.

- Begin by sitting students in a circle on the floor.
- Hold a ball of yarn in your lap.
- Explain that God can tell how much we love Him by the way we act. If we obey God and His rules, He knows we love Him.
- Invite the children to think of one way they can show God they love Him by following His rules. Some ideas might be: don't lie, listen to your mom and dad, etc.
- Whenever someone has an idea, you throw the ball of yarn to them and they say their idea. Be sure to hold on to the end of the yarn when you throw it.
- Once the student says their idea, they will ask the others in the group if they have an idea. Again, they will hold onto the end of the yarn and throw the ball across the circle.
- Continue on this way until everyone has a turn.
- Have the last child throw the ball back to you. Examine the beautiful web you've made.
- Talk about how the web shows that we are all connected together as a family of God. We can help each other show love and learn about God. Talk about what a wonderful time you've had together as a class and that you hope to see each other again next year.

A Multitude of Children

In this lesson, God reminded Abraham of His original promise to give Abraham so many offspring that they cannot be numbered. Students will get a chance to try to make that multitude of children!

What You Need:

- Washable stamp pads
- Pencils or skinny markers
- Crayons
- 11 inch by 14 inch pieces of white construction paper
- Timer or watch

How To Make It:

- Show children how to make a thumbprint using the stamp pad and a scrap piece of paper.
- Tell students they are going to try to make as many thumbprints as they can in 3 minutes.
- Set the timer for 3 minutes and say "Go!"
- At the end of 3 minutes, stop the students.
- Now tell them that each of these thumbprints is going to turn into a person.
- Demonstrate how to add stick arms and legs and add a face to each thumbprint.
- Allow students a few minutes to turn their thumbprints into people.
- Now have children count how many thumbprint people they were able to make in 3 minutes. See who made the most.
- Talk about how God is making even more real people than that in His promise to Abraham. Can you imagine so many people that we couldn't even begin to count them? What an amazing miracle God is performing.
- Allow students to take home their thumbprints.

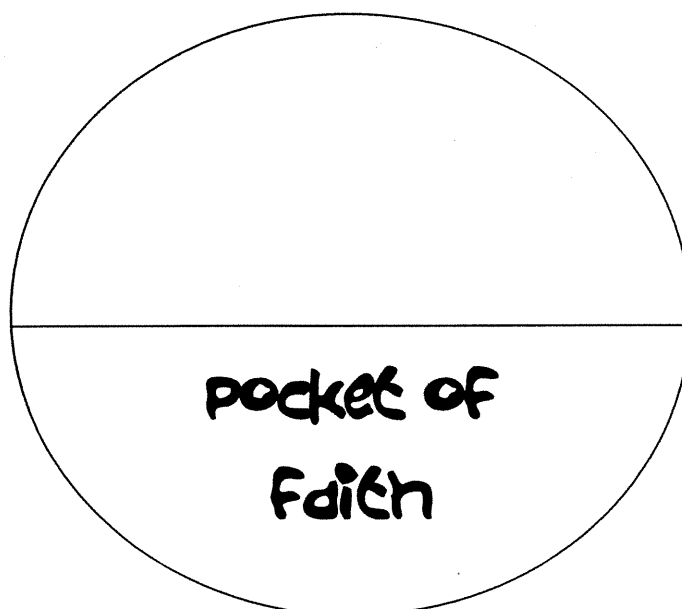
Pocket of Faith!

What You Need:

- Paper plates
- Hole punch
- Ribbon
- Printed memory verses
- 2 inch by 4 inch paper squared
- markers

How To Make It:

- Before class, cut some paper plates in half.
- Each student will get one full and one half paper plates.
- Lay the half paper plate on top of the full paper plate and punch holes around the edge.
- Give each student one set of paper plates.
- Let each child pick a color of ribbon to lace through the holes you punched in the paper plates to hold them together. This will also keep the memory verses in the pocket.
- Have students write 'Pocket of Faith' on the bottom half of the plates where the pocket is. They may embellish this with more pieces of wheat from your earlier craft.
- Pass out the memory verses about faith and have each child put them into the pocket.
- Then have each child write what he has faith in God about. For example: protection, God loves me, etc.
- You can then choose a faith scripture to write on the outer edge of the plates.



Memory Scriptures:

“He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars-if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be” (Genesis 15:5).

“You are the God who sees me” (Genesis 16:13).

“No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham for I have made you a father of many nations” (Genesis 17:3).

“So Abraham prayed unto God: and God healed Abimelech and his wife, and his maidservants; and they were able to have children.” (Genesis 20:17)

“Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age at the very time God had promised him.” (Genesis 21:2)

“ ‘Do not lay a hand on the boy,’ he said. ‘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.’”(Genesis 22:12)