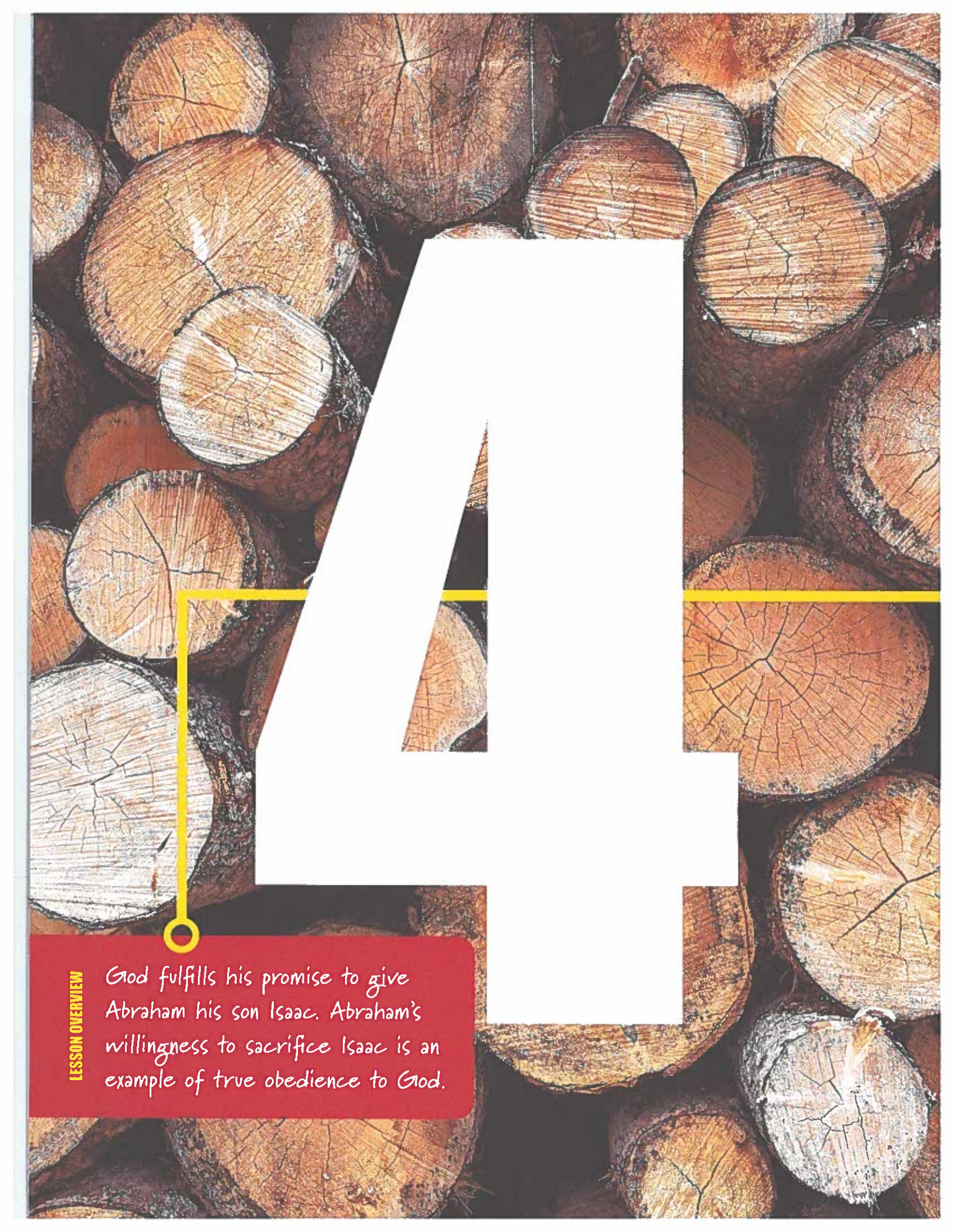




LESSON OVERVIEW

God fulfills his promise to give Abraham his son Isaac. Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac is an example of true obedience to God.



Genesis 18, 21–22

Isaac and Abraham

Introduce It!

Time Line
2066 B.C.

Key Events & People
God tests Abraham;
Abraham, Isaac, Sarah

Time Line Materials needed. (See p. 4.)

Begin the lesson in prayer. Ask God to help us learn what obedience to him looks like and for us to become more obedient to him.

Who remembers Abram? God spoke to Abram and told him it was time to move to the land that God would send him. We know that land was the Promised Land, which God had chosen for his special children, the Israelites. God also made a covenant, a big promise, with Abram that he would make Abram into a great nation.

God changed Abram's name to *Abraham*, which means father of many nations. And he changed Sarai's name to Sarah, promising that she would have a child. It was a great promise, except for one small detail. Abraham and Sarah were very old. Place the time line marker at 2066 B.C.

Memory Verse

*I am the way, the truth,
and the life. No one
can come to the Father
except through me.*
John 14:6

Tell It!

Choose a way to tell the story while reading the account from the Bible or telling it in your own words. You can read the story from the The Biggest Bible Story Book– pg62 or use the script and Bible passages below.

The Birth of Isaac

Many years went by, and Abraham and Sarah grew older. Genesis 18 tells us that one day the Lord appeared to Abraham in the form of three visitors. Abraham hurried to make them comfortable and give them food.

As the visitors ate with Abraham, Sarah listened to the conversation. One of the men told Abraham that he would be back around the same time next year, and at that time, Abraham and Sarah would have a son. What do you think Sarah did when she heard that? Children respond. Sarah laughed!

Read Genesis 18:12.

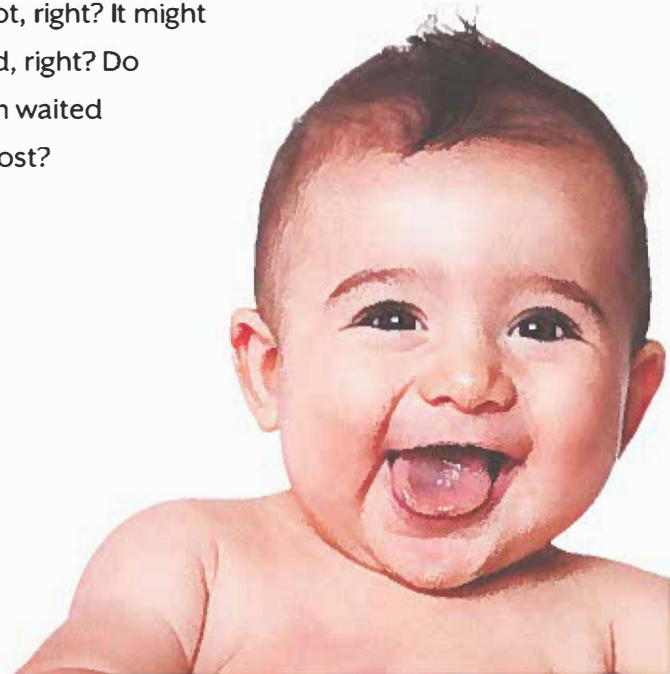
God always keeps his promises, though. Sure enough, a year later, when Abraham was 100 years old, he had a son (refer to the time line). Scripture tells us that, “The LORD kept his word and did for Sarah exactly what he had promised” (Genesis 21:1). Abraham and Sarah were blessed with a baby boy. They named their long-awaited son Isaac. In Hebrew, the name Isaac means he laughs. Sarah thought when other people found out their age, they would laugh, too.

Abraham is Tested

If you had to wait years and years and years for something you wanted before you finally received it, you would love it a lot, right? It might even be your favorite thing in the world, right? Do you think Isaac, the child that Abraham waited and waited for, is what he loved the most?

Read Genesis 22:1–2.

Of course, Abraham loved Isaac, but he loved God more. This was an incredible request! Abraham must have wondered how he’d be able to do what God asked of him. But whatever he might have been thinking, Abraham obeyed.



Early the next morning, he prepared everything he needed—including a knife—got Isaac ready, and the two of them headed off to the place where God told him to go.

Abraham never questioned God's command, even to the point where he picked up his knife in order to sacrifice Isaac. But God called out to stop him. And God provided a sheep caught in a bush for the sacrifice. Abraham didn't have to kill Isaac!

When God tested Abraham, Abraham followed God obediently. He was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac because he trusted what God told him to do. Remember that God had promised to bless Abraham through Isaac's descendants. So even though Abraham did not understand how the promise would be fulfilled, he still obeyed. Abraham trusted God to fulfill his promise to him, no matter what happened.

Pray It!

Dear God, it's really hard to obey when I don't feel like doing something. I just want to do what I want all the time. Help me to listen and obey when other people need me. In Jesus' name, amen.



Act It Out!

An Altar of Thanks

Overview

Children draw pictures of what they are thankful for, and then lay it on the altar.

Preparation

Designate a table or chair to be Abraham's altar. For extra fun, have kids create an altar out of boxes.

Directions

1. Children write down or draw things on their paper that God has provided for them.
2. Children put their paper on the altar. They can share their answers with the class if they wish.
3. When the child comes up to the altar, they get to answer a **Talk about It!** question from page 41.

Conversation

After Abraham sacrificed the ram on the altar, he named the place The Lord Will Provide. Just as God provided the offering for Abraham's sacrifice, God provides for us. We need to thank God for his provision in our lives.

Play It!

Don't Make Me Laugh

Overview

A child must make the other children laugh. If someone laughs, they are out!

Directions

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Select one child to be in the center. Their job is to make the other children laugh without touching them!
3. If a child laughs, they answer, or choose a volunteer to answer, a **Talk about It!** question from page 41. Then, they replace the person in the center.

Conversation

This was a fun, silly game, full of laughs. Who remembers what Isaac's name meant? Children respond. The name Isaac means he laughs. Sarah laughed at the idea of having a son when she was old, but God kept his promise.

Materials

paper
pencils
chair or table
(to be used
as an altar)



Talk about It!

Basic Questions

1. How old was Abraham when Isaac was born? *100 years old.*
2. Who came to visit Abraham? *The Lord/Three visitors/angels.*
3. What did Sarah do when she heard she would have a son? *She laughed.*
4. Why did Sarah laugh at the news she would have a child? *Because she was so old.*
5. What did God ask Abraham to do with Isaac? *Sacrifice Isaac.*
6. What was Abraham's response to God's request?
He willingly went to sacrifice Isaac.
7. When Isaac asked Abraham where the lamb for the offering was, what was Abraham's response? *That God would provide an offering.*
8. What stopped Abraham from hurting Isaac? *An angel.*
9. Was God pleased with Abraham's actions?
Yes, because he was willing to sacrifice Isaac to obey God.
10. Did God provide the sacrifice? *Yes, a sheep was stuck in a bush nearby.*

Go Further

1. What were altars and sacrifices used for in Old Testament times?
(See Hebrews 10:3.) *To remind the Israelites of their sins.*
2. What does it mean to FEAR the Lord?
3. Abraham placed his trust in the Lord, no matter what might have happened.
Does anyone want to share a time when they trusted God like that?
4. What are some ways you can practice obedience to the Lord?

Wrap It Up!

God made a covenant with Abraham to make him into a great nation and to bless him with a son. God's promise was fulfilled with the birth of Isaac. Abraham was 100 years old (refer to the time line) when Isaac was born. Later, God tested Abraham, making sure that Abraham loved God above all. In his obedience to God, Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son. No matter what, Abraham was willing to obey God. What a great example of obedience for us to follow!

