

The sacrifice of Isaac

Genesis 22

Storyline

God tested Abraham by telling him to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of Moriah. Abraham did not hesitate but went where he was led, gathered wood and built an altar and laid a fire. Isaac asked his father where the lamb was for the sacrifice. Abraham told him that God would provide it. Then he bound Isaac and laid him on the altar. As he prepared to slay him, an angel told him not to do so. Then Abraham saw a ram in a thicket which he offered up instead.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1

Talk about being obedient to our parents, our teachers, the elders, and God. Explain how God asks us to do certain things and how we should respond by obedience. The children can then enact the drama (Activity A).

Theme 2

Be sensitive in telling this story. Explain that God had promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations and that Isaac was the promised seed. Abraham might have found it difficult to understand why God would want him to offer up Isaac, but he had complete trust in God. In fact, he believed that God would raise Isaac from the dead. We don't always understand what God requires of us, but we are to trust Him because His promises never fail. The children can then carry out Activity B.

Theme One

“We should obey God”

Sometimes God asks us to do things that are not easy for us to do, or things that we don't want to do. He may even ask us to do things that we don't think He should ask us to do. No matter what, God asks us to obey Him. Just as Abraham proved his faithfulness by being totally obedient to what God required of him, so should we.

Key Thought

God has the absolute right to ask of us whatever He chooses and to expect us to obey. God requires total obedience.

Aim

To show the children that no sacrifice God asks of us will be too hard for us.

Memory Verse

“If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land.” (Isaiah 1:19).

Theme Two

“We should trust God completely”

We may safely trust God. He will fulfil His promises and He will never ask us to do something that is impossible. When He asks us to do something, He will help us to do it, but we must trust Him. Abraham believed God when He said he would be the father of many nations. He was willing to sacrifice his son, trusting God to raise him again from the dead. If we trust God completely, we shall be willing to do whatever He asks us to do.

Key Thought

God never lies and never changes His mind. We can always believe God's word.

Aim

To impress on the children that God keeps His promises.

Memory Verse

“But he who trusts in the Lord will be prospered.” (Proverbs 28:25).

As each week's activities take different lengths of time, always plan your lesson in time segments (eg. intro - 5 mins; activity - 20 mins; revision - 5 mins; memory verse/homework - 5 mins) to complete all activities.

Activity A - Drama

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per actor.
- Suitable props.

Steps

- Re-enact the events surrounding Isaac's sacrifice.
- Select children to play the roles of God, Abraham, Isaac, the angel and the young men.
- After the drama discuss important aspects of this event, drawing parallels to God and His Son, Jesus, as our sacrifice. eg. Isaac was obedient, Isaac trusted his father, Isaac carried wood on his own back, etc.

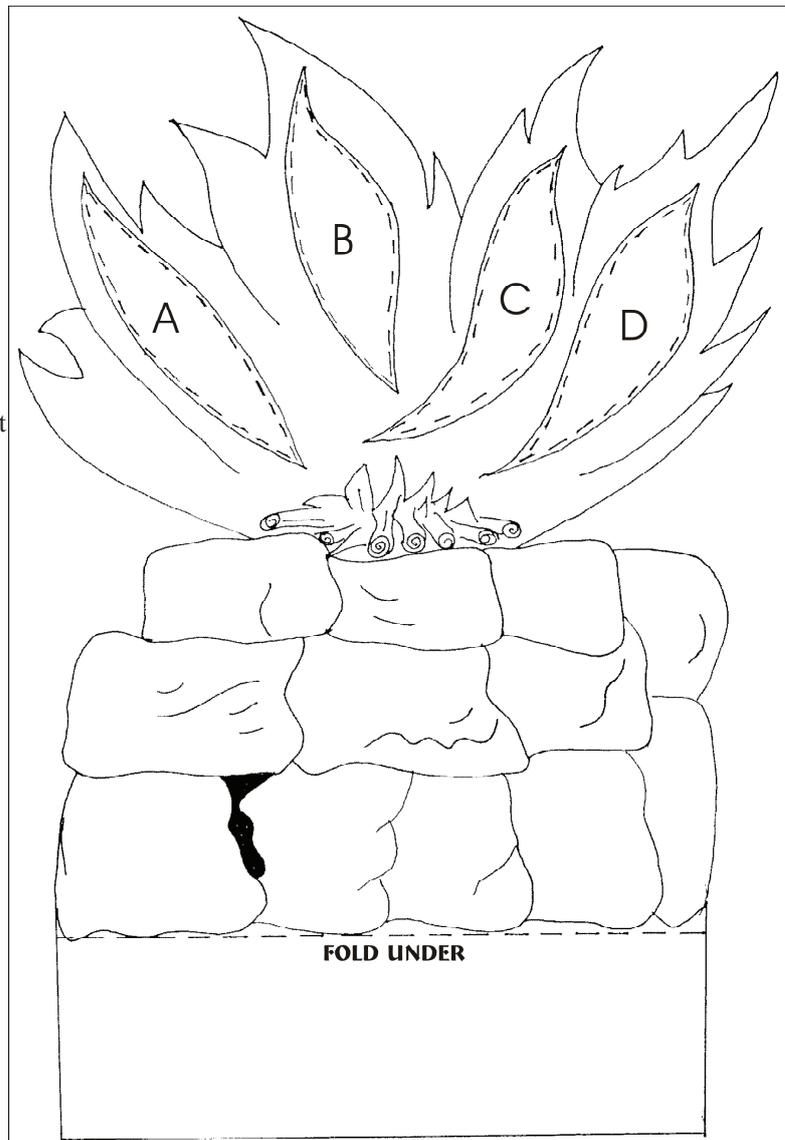
Activity B - Altar Collage

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child mounted on cardboard.
- Scissors.
- Glue.
- Coloured cellophane.
- Material scraps, eg. hessian.

Steps

- Cut out altar.
- Cut out sections A, B, C & D.
- Paste coloured cellophane behind cut out sections.
- Glue pieces of material to bricks.
- Fold flap under.



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Activity B - Altar Collage

