

ABRAHAM'S FAITH IS TESTED

Lesson Aim: Prove your faith in God by hearing and obeying His Word.

Suggestion: Have the students read the Scriptures and answer the questions in the student lesson and insert the following questions where they fit the lesson for class discussion.

Abraham believed God's Word and obeyed it. When God told Abraham to offer Isaac as a burnt offering, he proceeded to do it until God stopped him. When Sarah died, Abraham buried her in the land of Canaan that God had promised to give him and his seed. When God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham through Isaac and his seed, Abraham made careful preparations to provide Isaac a wife who had a reverent fear of God. We need to live by the words of God. "Be doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (Jam 1:22).

What did God do to Abraham? 22:1

In the KJV it says that God tempted Abraham, but this is impossible because James 1:13 says, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempts He any man." So what God did to Abraham was to test him. He tested Abraham's faith in Him. He tested Abraham's faith regarding Isaac, his son; He tested his faith in giving Canaan as a land for His seed through Isaac; and He tested his faith in choosing a proper wife for Isaac, one who had a respect for Him.

What do we learn from Abraham's response to God's test regarding his son, Isaac? 22:2-18

We should obey God immediately. When God told Abraham to offer his son as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that He would show him, Abraham obeyed God and took his son and two young men the next morning on a three-day journey.

We should believe that God will keep His promises. When Abraham saw the place where he was to sacrifice his son, he told the men to remain in that place while he and Isaac would go to worship the Lord and come back to them. He believed that God would keep His promise to make him the father of many nations through Isaac (Gen 17:1-8, 15-19), so he believed God would perform a miracle to keep Isaac alive, even to raise him from the dead (Heb 11:17-19).

We should count on God to provide what we need. Abraham bound Isaac, laid him on the altar and went so far as to raise his knife to sacrifice Isaac before the angel of the Lord stopped him and said, "I know that you fear God by not withholding your only son from me." Then Abraham saw a ram caught in a thicket by his horns and he offered it as a burnt offering instead of his son.

We can expect God to bless us when we obey Him. As a result of Abraham's obedience, the angel of the Lord promised to bless him with seed as many as the stars of the heaven and as the sand of the sea shore. His most precious seed is Jesus Christ. He will conquer all His enemies and will bless all nations when He comes to earth again as the King of kings with His Kingdom of believers from Heaven.

Why did Abraham buy a plot of land in Canaan to bury Sarah? 23:19

The LORD made a covenant with Abraham when he entered the land of Canaan and the LORD told Abraham this land would be given to him and his seed forever (Gen 12:6-7; 13:12-17; 15:18-21). The LORD did not give him any land in Canaan during his life, but he believed the LORD would keep His covenant, so he bought a burial plot so her body would rest in the land that was promised to them.

Why did Abraham insist that his servant find a wife for Isaac from his kindred in Haran? 24:1-8

God had promised to give the Canaanite land to Abraham's seed, so Isaac needed to be separated from the Canaanites and not marry one of their daughters. Also, a wife from his kindred would respect the true God. Abraham was certain that his servant would find a good wife for Isaac (24:7).

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How did Abraham's servant find a wife for Isaac? 24:11-60

Some of the things that Abraham's servant did to find a wife for Isaac are the things believers should do to find lost sinners for Jesus Christ. Here are some things that are useful in soul-winning.

Go to the place where people congregate. The servant knew that the daughters of the men in the city got water at the well for their families in the evening, so that is where he went (24:11).

Ask God to bless your work with success. The servant asked God to lead him to the right damsel that would become the wife of Isaac (24:12).

Have a plan in mind when you approach a person. Abraham's servant told God his plan and then Rebekah came to the well before he finished praying. She looked like the right person (24:13-16).

Follow through with your plan when God leads someone to you. The servant asked for a drink of water from Rebekah and she gave him a drink and offered to give water to his ten camels as well (24:17-20).

Believe God has answered your prayer so ask specific questions. The servant gave her a gift for her work and asked whose daughter she was. He learned she was a relative of Abraham (24:21-24).

Worship the LORD when He answers your prayer. The servant worshipped the LORD for leading him to the family of Abraham (24:26-27).

Do not delay in telling the purpose of your visit. The servant would not eat until he told the family why Abraham had sent him. He came to find a wife for Abraham's son and God had clearly led him to Rebekah in answer to his prayer. The brother and mother of Rebekah could see the hand of the LORD in this and allowed the servant to take her to be the wife of Abraham's son (24:33-51).

Worship the LORD when He blesses your work. Abraham worshipped the LORD when He blessed his search for a wife for Isaac (24:52).

Do not delay in completing your work for God. The family wanted to keep Rebekah with them for a while longer, but the servant insisted on leaving that morning to bring the good news to Abraham and Isaac that he had successfully found a good wife for Isaac. The family asked Rebekah if she were willing to go with Abraham's servant and she said she would go, so they released her with their blessing (24:54-60).