

BIRTH AND OFFERING OF ISAAC**Genesis 21 – 22**

Lesson Memory Verse: Mark 12:30a - "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart..."

Lesson Aim: To teach the children that they should love God more than anything or anyone else.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention); Pat loved her mother and father very much, and she also had a friend named Sue that she loved very much. One day, her mother told her to do the dishes before she went outside to play. Then her mother went shopping. Before Pat started to do the dishes, Sue came over and asked her to play outside. If Pat loved her mother the most, what would she do? If Pat loved Sue or herself more than her mother, what would she do?

Someone has said, "Our actions speak louder than our words." What does that mean? (See if the children can figure it out. The older children should be able to answer correctly.) It means that the things we do usually tell people what we really believe even better than what we tell them with our words. Therefore, Pat's decision to wash the dishes for her mother or to play outside with Sue would tell us which one she loved the most. I hope Pat washed the dishes first, don't you?

HE (for Authority): Many children say they love the Lord more than anyone else. This is exactly what our memory verse says they should do. It tells us that we are to love the Lord with all of our hearts. What does this mean? This means that we are to love the Lord more than our fathers or our mothers or our friends or even ourselves. It means that we are to love the Lord so much that we will obey Him before we obey anyone else. If someone tells us to do something that is the opposite of what the Lord says, whom should we obey? (The Lord.)

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In today's lesson Abraham showed that he loved the Lord more than his son and more than himself. He did it by obeying a difficult command that the Lord gave him.

I. Abraham named his son Isaac as God told him (21:3; cf. 17:19).

God told Abraham to name his son Isaac a year before he was born. Abraham did not forget God's command or try to change it. He obeyed and named his son Isaac.

WE: We must learn to obey God in everything.

II. Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael away as God told him (21:9-14).

- A. Ishmael was a trouble-maker (21:9).
- B. Sarah refused to have Hagar and Ishmael in the family (21:10).
- C. Abraham was sad about sending Ishmael away (21:11).
- D. God told Abraham to send Ishmael away and promised He would take care of him (21:12-13).
- E. Abraham obeyed God (21:14).

WE: We must trust God and obey Him. Even if God's command is different than what we would do, we must obey Him. God's ways are higher than our ways, and His thoughts are better than our thoughts (Is 55:8-9).

III. Abraham offered Isaac on the altar as God told him (22:1).

- A. God told Abraham to give Him his son by offering him as a burnt offering (22:1-2).
 1. God said this to prove Abraham's love (22:1).
 2. Abraham was told to go to one of the mountains in Moriah (22:2).

3. A burnt offering was a sacrifice a person would make to show he was completely surrendered to God (22:2).

WE: It may be hard for us to obey the Lord sometimes, but it is always right.

- B. Abraham showed that he loved God by obeying Him immediately (22:3-4).
 1. He got up early in the morning.
 2. He took Isaac with him to be sacrificed as a burnt offering.
 3. He took wood for the burnt offering.
 4. He went to the place where God had told him to go.

WE: When God tells us to do something, we must do it right away! And we must do exactly what He tells us! If we do not, we are not obeying Him. When God says we are to give Him our tithes and offerings first and then buy the things we want, do we do it? If you get an allowance, part of that allowance belongs to God. If you keep the whole allowance for yourself, you show that you love yourself more than God. Abraham showed that he loved God by trusting Him to take care of Isaac even if he had to offer him as a sacrifice (22:5-10).

1. Abraham spoke to his servants (22:5).
 - a. Abraham told his servants that he and Isaac would go and worship God on the mountain. To worship God, Abraham needed to love, obey and have faith in Him.

WE: We need to love, obey and have faith in God before we can truly worship God. He must be the One we love most.

- b. Abraham told his servants that he and Isaac would come back again. Abraham knew that he was supposed to offer his son as a burnt offering, but he trusted that God would raise him from the dead if he had to go through with the sacrifice.

WE: Are we ready to give God the best that we have and trust Him to take care of us?

2. Abraham answered his son (22:6-8).
When Isaac asked Abraham where the lamb was for the burnt offering, Abraham simply said that God would provide one, which He did (22:13).

WE: We are not to question God, but to trust Him fully.

3. Abraham obeyed the Lord (22:9-10).
 - a. Abraham tied his son up and laid him on the altar. He was giving his best to God in obedience to God's command.
 - b. Abraham took out his knife to kill his son and offer him as a burnt offering.

WE: We are not asked to kill anyone today, but God may ask us to sacrifice our comforts at home and leave our parents and friends to serve Him on some foreign land as a missionary. Are we willing to make this kind of sacrifice for God?

- C. God blessed Abraham for showing that he loved Him more than his son, Isaac (22:11-19).
 1. God stopped Abraham from killing his son (22:11-12).
 2. God provided a ram for Abraham's offering (22:13-14).
 3. God promised Abraham rewards for his obedience (22:15-18).

WE: God will reward us, too, when we obey Him and give our best to Him.

BE (for Action): The happiest people on earth are those that love God and show it by giving their best to Him. What have you given to God? Probably the best thing that you could give to God is your life (Rom 12:1-2). Do you love God enough to give Him your life to use as He wishes? Let us bow our heads and tell God that we want to give Him our lives because we love Him more than anyone else. (Let the children pray as they feel led by the Spirit of God.)