

# The First Family

**Date: 03.15.2026 | The Sacrifice**  
**Scripture: Genesis 21:1-7; 22:1-18**

## CENTRAL TRUTHS



### PRESCHOOL:

God wants us to trust Him, obey Him, and believe that He will provide what we need.

### YOUNGER KIDS (K5-2ND GRADE):

Abraham trusted and obeyed God, and God provided a sacrifice, showing that He always keeps His promises.

### OLDER KIDS (3RD-5TH GRADE):

God tested Abraham's faith, and when Abraham obeyed, God provided a substitute sacrifice, proving that He is faithful and keeps His promises.

### STUDENTS:

God tested Abraham's faith by asking him to offer Isaac, and Abraham trusted that God would provide. God spared Isaac and provided a substitute, showing that true faith obeys God and trusts His promises, even when the cost is great.

### ADULTS:

God provided a substitute sacrifice in Isaac's place, affirmed His covenant promises, and foreshadowed His ultimate provision: that He would not withhold His own Son but would provide salvation for all nations.

## MEMORY VERSE

*And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you, I will curse and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*  
*Genesis 12:2-3*



## DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

*Theophany - God is always and everywhere present, but a theophany is an exceptional visible display of that presence, a special revelation.*

## BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS



After decades of waiting, the Lord finally did exactly what He had promised. “The Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised” (*Genesis 21:1*). Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken (*Genesis 21:2*). Abraham was one hundred years old, and Sarah was ninety. Against every human expectation, Isaac was born—the long-awaited child of promise. His name, meaning “laughter,” captured the joy and wonder of God’s faithfulness. What once seemed impossible had become reality.

Isaac’s birth marked a turning point in the story of redemption. Through him, God’s covenant promises would continue, and through his offspring, blessing would come to all the nations of the earth. Yet almost immediately after this joyful fulfillment, Abraham faced the greatest test of his life.

*Genesis 22* opens with a sobering statement: “After these things God tested Abraham” (*Genesis 22:1*). Scripture is careful to clarify the nature of this moment. God does not tempt anyone to do evil (*James 1:13*), but He does test the faith and obedience of His people (*Exodus 16:4*). This test was not designed to make Abraham fail but to reveal the genuineness of his faith.

God’s command was staggering. Abraham was told to take his son—his only son Isaac, whom he loved—and offer him as a burnt offering on a mountain that God would show him (*Genesis 22:2*). Isaac was not only Abraham’s beloved child; he was the fulfillment of every promise God had made. To lose Isaac would appear to unravel God’s entire plan. Offering him as a burnt offering—completely consumed by fire—was the greatest demand God could have placed on Abraham.

Yet Abraham’s response is striking. *Genesis 22:3* tells us that he rose early the next morning and set out in obedience. There is no

recorded argument, hesitation, or delay. Abraham was prepared to obey God, even though the command seemed to contradict everything God had promised.

*Hebrews 11:17–19* gives insight into Abraham’s mindset. Abraham believed that God could raise Isaac from the dead if necessary. His obedience was rooted in deep trust—not only in God’s power, but in God’s faithfulness to keep His promises.

On the third day of their journey, Abraham saw the place from afar (*Genesis 22:4*). The journey from Beersheba to the region of Jerusalem was roughly forty-five miles, a trip of about two days on foot. When Abraham told his servants, “I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you” (*Genesis 22:5*), he spoke with confidence that both he and Isaac would return. Abraham intended to obey God fully, trusting that God would somehow preserve His promise.

As father and son climbed the mountain together, Isaac asked the question that cut to the heart of the moment: “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” (*Genesis 22:7*). Abraham’s reply becomes one of the most profound statements in Scripture: “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son” (*Genesis 22:8*).

When they reached the place God had appointed, Abraham bound Isaac and placed him on the altar. As Abraham raised the knife, the angel of the Lord called out and stopped him: “Now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me” (*Genesis 22:12*). Abraham’s faith, which had already been counted to him as righteousness in *Genesis 15:6*, was now shown to be living and active through obedience (*James 2:21–23*).

Although Abraham had passed the test, God was not finished revealing His grace. Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. God provided a substitute. The ram was offered as a burnt offering in place of Isaac (*Genesis 22:13*). This moment introduces a crucial biblical theme—substitutionary atonement. One life is given so another may live. What Isaac was spared, Christ would later endure.

In the final verses of the passage, God reaffirmed His covenant with Abraham by swearing a divine oath (*Genesis 22:16–18*). This oath echoes and expands the promises first given in *Genesis*

**12:1-3.** God promised that Abraham’s offspring would be multiplied and that through one descendant, blessing would come to all nations. Scripture is increasingly focused on tracing a single line of offspring—a promised King who would defeat His enemies and bring salvation to the Gentiles as well as Israel.

The New Testament identifies this promised offspring as Jesus Christ. In Him, the oath made to Abraham finds its ultimate fulfillment. On another mountain near Jerusalem, God would not spare His own Son. Unlike Isaac, Jesus would not be rescued at the last moment. He would become the true Lamb God provides, offering His life as a substitute for sinners.

The story of Abraham and Isaac reveals a God who tests faith, provides what is needed, and keeps His promises no matter the cost. It points beyond itself to the gospel—the moment when God fulfilled His covenant by giving His Son so that all nations might be blessed through Him.

## TELL THE STORY

*Genesis 21:1-7; 22:1-18*

**Read directly from scripture, use the simple summary below, The Jesus Storybook Bible, or The Biggest Story Bible.**

- Jesus Story Book Bible - The Present (Genesis 22)
- The Biggest Story Bible - It’s A Boy (Genesis 21-22)

Many years passed while Abraham and Sarah waited for God’s promise to come true. At the right time, God kept His promise, and Abraham and his wife had a son named Isaac. One day, God tested Abraham to show how much faith he had.

God said, “Take your only son Isaac, whom you love, and offer him as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.” Abraham obeyed God. He got up early, saddled his donkey, and gathered wood for the burnt offering. He set out with Isaac and his servants toward the mountain God had spoken of.

When they arrived at the mountain, Abraham had Isaac carry the wood, and Abraham carried the knife and the fire. Isaac asked, “My



father, where is the animal for the burnt offering?” Abraham said, “God Himself will provide the lamb for the offering, my son.”

Abraham was about to sacrifice his son when God stopped him! The angel of the Lord called to Abraham and said, “I see that you fear God and would not even withhold your only son.” Abraham then saw a ram caught in the thicket that God provided for the burnt offering. Abraham named that place, “The Lord Will Provide.”

God saw Abraham’s great faith because he was willing to give up his only son. God promised again, “I will bless you and make your family as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. All the nations of the earth will be blessed through your family.”

Abraham was willing to give his only son to God, but God provided another way. God was willing to give His only Son for us. Jesus knew there was no other way to save God’s people, so He died and rose again to give them forgiveness and eternal life with God.

## REBUILD THE STORY



1. How does the birth of Isaac show that God fulfills His promises in His own timing and power? *Genesis 21:1-2*
2. Why is Isaac’s name important for understanding Abraham and Sarah’s journey of faith? *Genesis 21:3, 6*
3. How do Abraham and Sarah’s ages emphasize the miraculous nature of Isaac’s birth? *Genesis 21:5*
4. Why does Scripture describe God’s command in *Genesis 22* as a “test,” and not a temptation? *Genesis 22:1*
5. How does God’s command to sacrifice Isaac appear to conflict with His earlier promises? *Genesis 22:2; Genesis 12:2-3*

6. What does Abraham's immediate obedience reveal about the depth of his trust in God? *Genesis 22:3*
7. How do Abraham's words to his servants show his confidence in God's faithfulness? *Genesis 22:5*
8. What does Abraham's response to Isaac's question reveal about his understanding of God's provision? *Genesis 22:7-8*
9. What does God's stopping Abraham at the altar demonstrate about the purpose of the test? *Genesis 22:11-12*
10. How does God's provision of the ram and His renewed oath connect this event to His larger redemptive plan?  
*Genesis 22:13, 16-18*
11. What does Isaac's birth teach us about God's ability to do what seems impossible? Have you seen God do something that seemed impossible in your own life? *Genesis 21:1; Genesis 18:14*
12. What does Abraham's obedience show us about trusting God even when His commands are difficult? In what ways do you have difficulty trusting God? *Genesis 22:3; Hebrews 11:17-19*
13. How does God's provision of a substitute point us toward Jesus and the gospel? *Genesis 22:13; John 1:29*
14. What does this story teach us about how faith and obedience work together? *Genesis 15:6; James 2:21-23*
15. How does God's promise to bless all nations through Abraham encourage us today? *Genesis 22:18; Galatians 3:16*

## GOSPEL EMPHASIS

*Genesis 22* helps us see the heart of the gospel. God tested Abraham's faith, and just as Abraham was willing to give up his beloved son, God would one day give His own Son for us. When Isaac was about to be sacrificed, God provided a ram to take his place. In the same way, God sent Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Because of Jesus, we are rescued from sin and death just as Isaac was rescued on the mountain. This story reminds us that God always provides what we need and keeps His promises to save His people.



## WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

Use your Attributes of God poster as a guide.

## PRAYER PROMPTS

God, thank You for being the God who provides and keeps His promises. Thank You for sending Jesus as the perfect sacrifice so that we can be rescued from sin and live in communion with You.



## THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING

*Genesis 25:1-28*