

Old Testament Stories

“Abraham & Isaac”

Genesis 22:1-19

☞ What would you like to praise God for today?

☞ Pray for God’s guidance as you study



1. What possession would be the hardest for you to give up?

2. In verse 2, what is God emphasizing as he describes Abraham’s relationship with Isaac?

3. What about Ishmael? Why wasn’t he considered Abraham’s true son and what would become of his future? (Read Gen. 21:1-20)

4. How was Abraham sure that he and his son would return to the servants? (Read Gen. 22:3-5 and Hebrews 11:7-19).

5. Read Genesis 21:1-21 and Galatians 4:21-31. Fill in the chart below noting the similarities and differences between Isaac and Ishmael?

	Abraham & Isaac	Abraham & Ishmael	God & Jesus
Birth			
Parents			
Future			

Now add a 3rd column for God the Father and Jesus. What similarities do you see?
How is Jesus like Isaac? How is Jesus like the lamb substitute?

6. Why is Abraham such a good example of faith in action? Read James 2:18-23.

7. Look again at Gen. 22:9-19. For whose benefit does God see how far Abraham will go:

- For His own?
- For Abraham's?
- For Isaac's?
- For the reader's?

8. What did God want from Abraham:

- A sacrifice?
- Absolute obedience?
- To be loved above all else?
- An example of the sacrificial love that God would demonstrate ultimately at the cross?

9. Read Matthew 22:31 and Romans 4:17 & 23-25. Think about Abraham and Isaac's experience. What does it mean to you that God is "not the God of the dead but of the living"? How does this claim separate Christianity from all other faiths?

10. In Genesis 22:13 Abraham looks up to see a ram provided by God for the sacrifice. Abraham calls the altar "the Lord Will Provide" in memory of this incredible experience. What time(s) in the past have you experienced God in similar ways? Take time to worship.

Prayer: For one another

LIFE GROUPS

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- L** ♦ Learn..... applying Biblical truth for everyday living
- I** ♦ Invite.....welcoming others to our fellowship
- F** ♦ Fellowship.....nurturing Christ centered caring relationships
- E** ♦ Evangelism..... reaching others with the hope of Christ

DID YOU KNOW?

God told Abraham to: “Go to the land of Moriah. There on a mountain that I will show you...” (v. 2) Why did Abraham have to go on this three-day journey? Why couldn't he have sacrificed Isaac right where he was? What difference would it make?

Somehow the place was very important – look at the second part of verse 3, verse 4 and verse 9. Abraham even gives the place a special name: “The Lord will provide’ (v. 14).”

So what? What is so special about this place? We have never even heard of it, have we? It is just some mountain in the desert of Israel! In fact, we have all heard of it, and it is very familiar to us, under a different name. Mount Moriah was the place where Jerusalem was going to be!

In fact, it was the place where, about a thousand years later, the temple itself would be built – see 2 Chronicles 3:1. It was the place where sacrifices would be made. This verse refers not only to Mount Moriah, but also to the ‘threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite (1 Chronicles 21:1-22.)

There is a strange story about king David provoking God's anger, and God sending an angel as a messenger of his anger who was killing thousands of people. The important point, as far as we are concerned, is that the threshing floor of Araunah was the place where God's anger was turned away, and the place where sacrifices were made.

What is more, the sacrifice God provided (Gen. 22:7,8) was a ram NOT a lamb. This is because the Lamb of God was to arrive 2,000 years later (see John 1:29,36).

The identity of Abraham's only son (Isaac) is a point of contention with some Muslims. However, even the Koran is unclear as to the identity of Abraham's son. In fact, Islamic scholars are divided over whether it was Isaac or Ishmael who accompanied Abraham that day. Only the Biblical record is clear – Isaac – the son of promise – went with Abraham to the sacrifice altar.

Some Islamic scholars further try to say that Abraham attempted to sacrifice Ishmael at Mecca near the Kabah. “Muslims believe the Ka'aba was built by Abraham and his son Ishmael, considered the father of Islam. The building is believed to mark the gate of Heaven, where communication with Allah is easiest.” This is why Muslims pray toward the building in Mecca every day. Every devout Muslim hopes to one day journey to the Kabah, circling it seven times as a part of his Haji (pilgrimage).

However, pre-Islamic history indicates that any rites that occurred at this spot were nothing more than pagan customs adopted by Muhammad into Islam. Abraham and Isaac visited Mount Moriah, the site of the future temple of Solomon, NOT Mecca.

Facing the Challenge.org/gen.22 *Abraham and Isaac* by David Couchman
Abraham and the Child of Sacrifice – Isaac or Ishmael? by Sam Shamoun