

Isaac, Promised Son

Bible Study

What you will need:

- Bible, pen and note pad for each participant
- A stone to add to the altar, The stone can be painted and have the letters of the alphabet on it
- Kids building blocks – for display and play if people chose to do so
- For supper - Mini sandwiches filled with 'hundreds and thousands (Fairy bread) Cheerio's and tomato sauce



"Then God said, 'Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.'" Genesis 22:2 (NIV)

"Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, 'Father?' 'Yes, my son?' Abraham replied. 'The fire and wood are here,' Isaac said, 'but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?' Abraham answered, 'God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.' And the two of them went on together." Genesis 22:6-8 (NIV)

Genesis 22 deals with one of the most important altars Abraham ever built. This chapter deals with the big picture in story telling and its subject is key to the greatest story of all. The story of Abraham and his willingness to sacrifice his promised son is what is known as typology or foreshadowing.

Building blocks are important tools for small children. The child discovers and examines the blocks using the senses of sight, sound, touch, and even taste. As the child grows, they learn that the blocks line up. The next step in their education is to realize that the blocks stack. Soon the child learns more complex ways to stack the blocks and they discover building. When we teach stories, we teach "building blocks" of knowledge. As teachers, we help the learners to use or stack those blocks of knowledge on each other in more complex designs that will reveal the greater purpose of those blocks.

Think of it this way when we learn to read, we first learn the basic of the alphabet. We learn what the letters mean, how they sound, and how when combined they make words. We learn that a few letters make small words and more letters make big words. Small words added to each other make big words. Words are then used to make sentences which express ideas. We learn to understand the written communication of ideas and learn to communicate our own ideas.

When we study the Bible, we see how God is teaching us to understand His plan for us. We look at the events and lessons of the Bible that are examples of the greater truth that would be revealed. Typology is literally the study of types – Isaac was the son of promise and he was a type of the Promised Son, who we know is Jesus.

Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac is a type of how God was willing to sacrifice His Son Jesus. Many stories from the Old Testament contain clues to God's ultimate plan of redemption. One of the first stories to contain a clue about redemption is when Adam and Eve rebelled against God and sinned, they realized they were naked. They unsuccessfully tried to cover themselves. Later in the story we see that God covered them with the skin of animals. Sin required death as its payment. When God shed the blood of animals to make a cover for Adam and Eve to wear, it was the first sacrifice or shedding of blood to "cover" or pay for the sin of mankind. When the blood of animals was offered on altars, it was to pay the price, or cover the price of sin.

Isaac was the heir of all God's promises and provision given to Abraham. It had been made clear that the heir was not Lot, who was like a son to Abram and Sarai. It had been made clear it was not Eliezar, who was the first born of their servants. It was made clear that the heir was not Ishmael, the son of Hagar and Abram. It had been made clear to all that Isaac was the heir. When God instructed Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, Abraham had to have some questions for God.

The Bible is silent on those details and allows us to imagine how Abraham received the command. Did Abraham have a heart to heart discussion with God? Did he have a spiritual crisis or have a fit of temper? Perhaps after all Abraham had learned about and from God he was able to quickly put his issues aside and simply trust and obey. What happened when Abraham told Sarah? Did he tell Sarah?

- Can you imagine the drama and reactions that could have happened if Abraham had told Sarah?

From the innocent questions of Isaac we gather that Abraham must not have disclosed the details of this "men only" trip to

the region of Moriah. Abraham gathered the supplies he would need, saddled his donkey, and took two of his servants along with Isaac where God had instructed him to go. Three days into the journey Abraham looked up and saw the place God told him about. He took the wood for the burnt offering and gave it to Isaac to carry. Abraham carried the knife and the fire. The servants and donkey were left behind. "He said to his servants, 'Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.'" (Verse 5) Note the word we in this verse. From the few words spoken by Abraham to his servants we get a sense of the intensity of Abraham to complete this mission. His words also give us a glimpse into his faith in God. Isaac was the son of promise and if God required his sacrifice, God would also be able to replace him even if it meant raising him from the dead.

From just this portion of the story we have some significant types of the story of Jesus. Abraham saddled his donkey and took him on the journey. A saddled donkey often indicated that the person who owned the donkey was a significant and wealthy person. It represented the office of a prophet or a ruler. The place Abraham was directed to go was the area we now know as Jerusalem. It is said that Solomon built the temple on Mount Moriah. Three days into the journey, Abraham left the servants and the donkey. He took the wood to be used for the burning of the sacrifice and gives it to Isaac to carry. Abraham carries the knife and the fire. The fire would be burning coals kept in a metal container and would be used to catch the wood on fire.

- When Jesus entered Jerusalem on that last Passover celebration, what did He ride?
- Did Jesus carry the wood upon which he would die?
- Fire often symbolizes the Presence of God or the Holy Spirit
- The Word of God has been likened to a sword that cuts to the very heart of a matter

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- God Himself will provide the lamb. Look up John 1:29

When they arrived at the place God chose, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood. Did it surprise Isaac when Abraham placed him on the wood? Did he struggle? Did he have to be bound or did he willingly obey his father's instructions? Why did Abraham bind Isaac? As Abraham raised the knife to stab Isaac, God spoke and stopped him. God commended Abraham on his complete faith and willingness to obey. He gave Isaac back to Abraham. That was when Abraham noticed the ram caught in the bushes behind him. God had provided the sacrifice. Abraham called the place, God will provide. (Yahweh Yir'eh) Once again God affirms His promises to give Abraham so many descendants that they would be like the stars in the sky or the sand on the sea shore. God promised to bless the world through the descendants of Abraham.

Isaac's story is key to the revelation and development of the Gospel in our world. The willingness of Abraham to sacrifice the son of promise, his heir and beloved son is a type or a picture that helps us understand that God's Son of Promise, Jesus would be sacrificed to save the world. Through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the world has been blessed. The Bible uses a lot of types and symbols to help communicate truth and deeper truth.

- Can you think of any symbol that could remind you about any insight you gained from this study?
- Is there any one symbol that could be used to represent the biggest truth of this lesson?