

Lesson 4.8 – Isaac: A picture of Jesus and the Cross

Topic: Peace in the Family

Subtopic: 1B. Jesus Christ: God the Son  
3A. Made New in Christ

Class: IV (Grade 4)

Objectives: **Knowledge:** Students will be able to complete a Venn diagram comparing Isaac and Jesus. They will complete a sentence explaining why Jesus died.

**Attitude:** Students will want to be Friends with God and accept Jesus' sacrifice as forgiveness for their sins.

Materials Needed:

Blackboard and Chalk  
Exercise book

References: Genesis 22:1-19

Memory Verse: John 3:16

### Teacher Activities

**Introduction:** *Review.*

1. When God made covenant with Abraham, what did He promise Abraham would have?
2. At the time God made this promise, how many children did Abraham have?
3. Abraham and Sarah had to wait twenty-five years for this promise to be fulfilled but they finally had one son. They named their son Isaac. Does anyone know what that means?

**Bible Story:**

Tell the story of Abraham offering Isaac to God. Explain how Jesus' death on the cross was similar to Abraham offering Isaac. Complete a Venn Diagram comparing Isaac and Jesus.

**Application:** *Writing.* Have students write in their exercise book, in their own words, how Jesus died for them.

**Evaluation:** Do the students understand that God wants us to have eternal life? He offered Jesus, His only Son, on the cross so we could be forgiven and live eternally with God. Do students see how Isaac is a picture of Jesus' sacrifice?

### Student Activities

**Introduction:** *Possible answers:*

1. Land and many descendants
2. None
3. Isaac means "he laughs"

**Bible Story:** Students listen to the story about Isaac and look for similarities to Jesus' death on the cross.

Students copy the Venn Diagram into their Exercise book as the teacher writes on the board.

**Application:** Complete this sentence starter:  
*Jesus died because...*

**Evaluation:** Were students able to complete the sentence? (*Answers will vary.*) Were they able to complete the Venn diagram comparing Isaac and Jesus?

**Extension Activities:** *Romans Road Review.* Students should know all the verses to the Romans Road now. Draw the illustration (see lesson 4.3) and have them explain the illustration and say the verses. Ask them how this lesson ties into the Romans Road.

*Obedience.* Discuss how Abraham obeyed God even when he didn't understand. Ask students to share examples of times when parents or teachers ask them to do something but they didn't understand it until later. Emphasize that we need to obey God because He knows everything and we don't always see the whole picture. Students might enjoy telling a "continuing story". One student tells the first sentence. The next student adds a sentence. The third student gives the third sentence and so the story continues. Explain that our lives are sometimes like an incomplete story. We don't see the end at the beginning so we have to just obey God one step at a time.

### Notes for Teacher

Today's story is about Isaac. When God asked Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice it must have caused much confusion and sorrow but Abraham obeyed. This Old Testament story is a picture of what God will do in the New Testament when He willingly offers His own son, Jesus, as the sacrifice for our sins. Just as the ram was a substitute sacrifice for Isaac, Jesus is a substitute sacrifice for us. This may be a difficult concept for the students to understand. Let them talk about it and ask questions to help them grasp this important concept.

### Key Points:

- God's friends trust Him and obey Him even when they don't know why God is asking them to do something.
- Jesus died for our sins so we would not have to face eternal punishment. It is through Jesus' death on the cross that we make peace with God.

### Bible Story:

1. Abraham and Sarah waited 25 years for God to fulfill His promise to give them a son. When he was born his parents named him Isaac which means "he laughs". Sarah said that people would laugh with her when they heard how old she was and how God had given her joy and laughter in her old age by giving her a son. Isaac grew and gave his parents much joy. **Note:** Abraham did have another son with Hagar, Sarah's servant, but this is was the only son Abraham had with his wife, Sarah.

2. One day God gave Abraham a difficult test. He told Abraham to take Isaac to Mount Moriah and sacrifice his son there. Abraham probably felt very sad and confused but he obeyed God anyway. Sometimes we don't know why God tells us to do something. We just have to obey. Remember *that God's friends trust Him and obey Him even when they don't know why God is asking them to do something.*

3. Early in the morning Abraham loaded wood on a donkey and he, Isaac and two servants went to Mount Moriah. Abraham loaded the wood on Isaac's back. Abraham carried a sharp knife and hot coals for the fire. He told the servants to stay with the donkey at the bottom of the mountain.

4. Abraham and Isaac started up the mountain. As they walked along. Isaac said, "Father, we have coals and the wood but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?" Abraham probably didn't know what to say. Finally, he said, "God Himself will provide a lamb."

5. Many years later God's own son, Jesus, would make a similar walk. Just as Isaac carried the wood for his sacrifice, Jesus would carry the cross where He would be sacrificed. Just as Abraham grieved for his son, so God must have grieved as He saw Jesus head for the cross.

6. When Abraham and Isaac reached the top of the mountain, Abraham built an altar and put the wood on top of it. Then he tied up his son and put him on top of the wood. He drew his knife to kill Isaac but the Angel of the Lord called to him and said, "Abraham."

Immediately Abraham answered, "Here I am."

The Angel said, "Don't hurt the boy or do anything to him. Now I know that you trust God and will obey Him no matter what, because you have not kept back your only son from Me."

7. Abraham put down the knife and looked around. There was a ram caught in a bush by its horns. He took the ram and offered it as a sacrifice to God instead of offering Isaac. Abraham called that place "The Lord Provides" because God provided the lamb for the sacrifice.

8. God provided a ram for Abraham to sacrifice so he would not have to sacrifice his son. This is a picture of how God provided Jesus as a sacrifice for our sins. We deserved to die for our sins but God let Jesus die on the cross so we would not have to. It must have been hard for God to let His only son die, just as it was hard for Abraham to offer Isaac to God. God loved you so much that He wanted to provide a way so your sins could be forgiven.

*Complete a Venn Diagram on the board as students draw it in their exercise book. A Venn diagram can be used any time you want to show how two things compare to each other. Draw two overlapping circles on the board. On one side show how Isaac was different than Jesus. On the other side show how Jesus was different than Isaac. In the center show how Jesus and Isaac were the same. An example is given below. Have the students tell you what to write in the circles. Their answers may vary somewhat from the example.*

