

Church of God Sunday School

ABRAHAM AND ISAAC

Genesis 21:1 — 22:19

God promised Abraham and Sarah they would have a son. Many years passed, and it seemed this would never happen. But when Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90, a son was born to them. They named him Isaac (*I-zik*).

When Isaac was weaned, his father held a great feast. Isaac's half brother, Ishmael (*ISH-may-uhl*), whose mother was Hagar the servant, made fun of Isaac. This upset Sarah, and she told Abraham to cast Ishmael and Hagar out.

This was grievous to Abraham, for he loved Ishmael. But God told Abraham to listen to Sarah, for Isaac was to be the child of promise (Galatians 4:28). Early in the morning, Abraham gave Hagar food and water for the journey and "sent her away." Hagar and Ishmael "wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba [*beer-SHEE-buh*]."

When the water was gone, Hagar placed Ishmael under a shrub, no doubt to protect him from the heat. Hagar feared that her son might die. So she went "a good way off" and sat down and said, "Let me not see the death of the child." And she wept.

God sent an angel to comfort Hagar. The angel told Hagar not to be afraid for God had heard the voice of Ishmael. God promised to make of Ishmael a great nation. Then God helped Hagar to see a well where she was able to fill her bottle with water.

God was with Ishmael, who grew and lived in the wilderness of Paran (*PAY-ran*). Ishmael "became an archer [one who shoots with a bow and arrow]."

Many years passed, and Isaac was growing older. One day the Lord told Abraham to take his "only son Isaac, whom thou lovest," and travel to "the land of Moriah [*muh-RI-uh*]." Abraham was to offer Isaac for a burnt offering. (Can you imagine how Abraham must

have felt? He had waited so long for this son, and now God wanted him for a sacrifice?) Abraham's love for God was being tested.

Abraham arose early in the morning, split wood, saddled his donkey, and took two servants and Isaac with him. Three days later, Abraham saw "the place of which God had told him . . . afar off." Abraham and Isaac left the servants and the donkey at the bottom of the mountain. Look at Abraham's great faith: he told the servants that both *he* and the *lad* would return.

As Abraham and Isaac traveled together—Isaac carrying the wood, and Abraham carrying the fire and the knife—Isaac asked his father, "Where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering."

Finally, they came to the place God had told Abraham of. There Abraham built an altar, laid the wood on it, and

bound Isaac. Then he laid Isaac on top of the wood. Abraham must have felt great sadness, but he wanted to obey God above all else.

"Abraham stretched forth his hand" and took hold of the knife. He was ready to kill his son, but the angel of the Lord called from Heaven, "Abraham, Abraham." Abraham answered, "Here am I." The angel told Abraham not to harm Isaac. God saw in Abraham's heart that he loved God more than he loved his son.

Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. He took the ram and offered it to the Lord in place of his son. Abraham called the place *Jehovahjireh* (*juh-HOH-vuh-JI-ruh*), which means "the Lord will provide." God said He would bless Abraham's seed (his children to come) because he had obeyed His voice. His seed would be as "the stars of



the heaven" and as "the sand which is upon the sea shore" (too many to count). Then Abraham, Isaac, and the servants returned to Beersheba.

Many years later, God's own Son Jesus would be sacrificed on the Cross for the sins of the whole world. Just as Abraham loved God enough to sacrifice his son Isaac, God loved the world so much that He "gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him

should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Have you accepted this wonderful gift from God? If not, you can.

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering."*  
—Genesis 22:8