

Grown Up Children Stories – Abraham Week 1

Main Point: **Trust God and learn to follow where He leads you**

Main Passage: Gen 22:1-14 (Gen 11-25, Gal 3:6-9, Rom 4, Hebrews 11)

The Beginner's Bible Page: pg 46 Visitors

Jesus Connection:

- Isaac & Jesus are long awaited “beloved sons”
- Both sons carry wood leading to their death
- God provides the sacrifice substitute

Message Start:

Everyone remembers story time as a young child. Some can remember going to the library in elementary school, sitting in a circle, and listening to the teacher read a book. Maybe you can remember climbing up into the lap of your grandma or grandpa as they told stories of when they were younger. We loved hearing these stories, and most of us can still remember them to this day.

[AUTHOR NOTE – I set up an oversized recliner on stage, and I sat in it while giving the intro. I also gave the first part of the intro with the tone of a kindergarten teacher. When I got to the next part of the intro, I stood up and resumed my normal speaking tone to emphasize the transition from “kid stuff” to a more grown up approach.]

This week we are beginning a new series called Grown Up Children's Stories. For the next few weeks, we are going to look at some of the stories you probably heard as little kids, but we are going to dive a little deeper into the heart of the Scripture.

1 Corinthians 13:11 ESV *“When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.”*

As middle school/ high school students, you are past the childish ways of thinking, and today we are going to take a deeper look at the story of Abraham.

Story Time

[AUTHOR NOTE –Give as much energy as you can to reading the story like you would to a group of children. Tell the story as if your group was hearing it for the first time.]

[Read from The Beginner's Bible (accessible from the Nursery/ Young Children's in KidCity)
Read story on page 46 – Visitors]

Welcome to story time children. We are going to read from this handy dandy bible, hehe. Come around, move closer, make sure you can see now...

READ CHILDREN BIBLE STORY OF ABRAHAM

Thanks for listening, now time for bed. Kidding kidding.

As a child growing up, you may have heard about Abraham. Let's work as a group, lean in and learn more about him.

Ask Crowd: Who is Abraham? What was Abraham known for?
(take some answer across the room)

[Get a gauge on understanding. Even if some know much about Abraham, there is a good chance students in the room will have NO understanding. Be inviting into learning together]

Growing up you may or may not have heard about Abraham. The children's bible is GREAT at starting the story, entry level into knowing what's going on. But as we get older, the bible is filled with more layers, more understanding, and we see there is more going on. Let's dig deeper into the character of Abraham, what I do know,

Main point: Trust God and learn to follow where He leads you

If you were around about a month ago, we started our family series in the book of Matthew 1:1-2 – Jesus' genealogy begins with Abraham. It's good for us to understand what is happening in the bible, the historical account/ record of what happened. Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Simply states, Abraham was the father of Isaac. And so the genealogy begins.

Abraham's backstory – *(move quick through this part)*

- Call of Abraham – Gen 12:1-4a
 - ¹The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. ²“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” ⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran
- He is 75, no kids. I (God) will make you a GREAT nation.
 - God will NEED to show up for that to happen.
 - Traveled around to his new land.
- The Lord makes a Covenant with Abram(ham)
 - What can you give me since I remain childless... Gen 15:2
 - Gen 15:4-5 - ⁴ Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” ⁵ He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”
 - Abram’s response: Gen 15:6 - ⁶ Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.
 - Gen 17 – God makes a covenant with with Abram, changes his name. Reminds Abraham of the promise, nations and kings will come from this everlasting covenant.
- There’s so much... seriously read this stuff for yourself.
 - Abraham has a child with Sarah’s servant Hagar, has a baby name Ishmael
 - Side note, Ishmael is recognized as the spiritual father of Islam.
 - Let’s jump ahead to Gen 21 – Isaac is born
- God keeps his promises, Isaac is born.

Gen 22 – God has honored his promise of a son to Abraham!

- v1 – God tested Abraham...

- Gen 22:2 - ² Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

WHAT!! Your kids bible won't mention this part of Abraham's life. God was testing Abraham, let's dig into this section together.

1. This isn't the FIRST Experience with God

- a) Abraham has had many conversations, covenants, opportunities to connect with God. God was very much present for Abraham.
- b) Abraham trusted God's promise and knew Him to be good and trustworthy.

2. Abraham didn't think Isaac would Die

- a) Gen 22:5 – He (Abraham) 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.”
- b) Imagine Isaac's question: Gen 22:7b - Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”
- c) Gen 22:8 - ⁸ Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

3. The Test

- a) Gen 22:9-14 - ⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

¹² “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram^[a] caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

- b) Can you imagine yourself in this situation? God has directly connected with you, several times over YEARS, and God tests to see your faithfulness.

When we dig into this story of Abraham and Isaac, we can make a connection all the way to Jesus. In just a few weeks, we will celebrate Jesus for Christmas. ‘Unto us a child is born.’ We will celebrate! When we examine what's going on in Abraham's story, we need to make the connection all the way to Jesus. Follow me here on how we can see Jesus threaded into this story.

This story of Abraham & Isaac Points to Jesus –

- Gospel Connection 1 - Both Isaac and Jesus are long awaited “beloved sons”
 - Isaac beloved son of Abraham and the covenant son of promise (gen 22:2, Heb 11:17)
 - Jesus was the beloved Son of God (John 3:16)
- Gospel Connection 2 – Both sons carry the wood leading to their death
 - Isaac carries the fire wood on his back (Gen 22:6)
 - Jesus carries the cross (John 19:17)

- Gospel Connection 3 – God provides the sacrifice substitute
 - God provides a ram as a sacrifice substitute (Gen 22:8)
 - God provides Jesus as the ‘lamb of God’ as a substitute for our sin, that we deserved the punishment of death, yet Jesus took our place.

Why was a sacrifice needed?

- At the beginning of Gen 1 – God creates humanity to rule WITH Him in the garden, it was Good.
- BUT humanity turned it’s back on God.
- God didn’t introduce death into the equation; humanity did. God’s problem (and ours) is figuring out how to deal with it.
- Sacrifice is the death of one thing so something else can have a new life

Abraham was faithful and obedient in following God. Father Abraham... he followed God and it impacts all of us. As we wrap up, let’s read what Paul had to say about Abraham:

Galatians 3:6-9 - ⁶ So also Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” ⁷ Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. ⁸ Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” ⁹ So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Main point: Trust God and learn to follow where He leads you

Obedience paired with action will change our own hearts and influence everyone around us. Abraham was very impactful for you and I, maybe you didn’t even know who he was before. Let’s be thankful for the example he set for us.

Let’s pray and then head into small groups.

Pray

Dismiss to Small Group