



Keeping Promises

Genesis 22:1-19

Review

- Were you able to tell the Creation or Fall story to anyone this past week?
- Who can tell us the Fall story?

Hook Question

What's most valuable to you that would be hard to give up? Do you remember a time when you had to give something up that was very special to you? What was that experience like?

Tell the Story

Retell

Have the group retell the story in their own words. Work together to recreate what was just heard asking 'what's next' questions.

Personal/Group Retell

Give everyone a few moments to journal or draw some thoughts about this Bible story.

Introduction

Many years have passed since Adam and Eve have disobeyed God and had to leave the Garden of Eden. People still do not follow God and continue to rebel against Him. God chose a man named Abraham, who was married to Sarah, to be the start of a nation devoted to Himself. God promised them a son but they had to wait 25 years before he was born. They finally had Isaac when Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90 years old. Our Bible story continues when Isaac is 13.

One day God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am!" Abraham replied.

God said, "Take your son – your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah! Offer him up there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains which I will show you."

Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took two of his young servants with him, along with his son Isaac. When he had cut the wood for the burnt offering, he started out for the place God had spoken to him about.

On the third day Abraham caught sight of the place in the distance. So he said to his servants, "You two stay here with the donkey while the boy and I go up there. We will worship and then return to you."

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and put it on his son Isaac. Then he took the fire and the knife in his hand, and the two of them walked on together.

Discussion Questions

Listed below are some basic questions that can be asked. You may want to supplement these questions with other Head, Heart, and Hands questions.

- Something new I learned today about what it means to follow Jesus is...
- How did the story describe God's relationship with people?
- How does Abraham's life inspire you?
- What can we learn from Abraham?
- How should we respond to Jesus today?
- How does this story affect your life?

Story Continued...

Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

"God will provide for what he needs my son," Abraham replied. The two of them continued on together.

When they came to the place God had told him about, Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood on it. Next he tied up his son Isaac and placed him on the altar on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand, took the knife, and prepared to kill his son. But the Lord's angel called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am!" Abraham answered.

"Do not harm the boy!" the angel said. "Now I know that you fear God because you did not keep your only son from me."

Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in the bushes by its horns. So he went over and got the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah Jireh, which means, "The Lord provides."

The Lord's angel called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "'By my own name,' declares the Lord, 'because you have done this and have not held back your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you. I will greatly multiply your children and their children after them so that they will be as countless as the stars in the sky or the grains of sand on the seashore. Your family after you will take possession of the cities of their enemies. Because you have obeyed me, all the nations of the earth will be blessed because of your children.'"

Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set out together for where Abraham stayed.

Closing Blessing

Read Isaiah 26:4

Pray Lord, thank you that you are the Rock on which we can stand. Our trust is in you. Bless each person here with a greater confidence to follow you – to hear your voice and to respond no matter what the cost. We trust in you.