

God Has Provided a Savior for You!

Bible Lesson: Isaac's Sacrifice – *Genesis 22:1-14; Hebrews 11:17-19*

Main Teaching God has provided a Savior for you!

Word Up: God provided the Savior!

Supplies:

- Word Up Booklet – Word Up (Resource Pack)
- Verse token of John 1:12 – Small Group
- Recording for “Jesus is the Good News” and “To All Who Did Receive Him” - Worship (Sing About the King 1CD)
- Optional Song Visual for “Jesus is the Good News” – Worship (cefpres.com)
- Word Up Card – Word Up
- Clear plastic water bottle with lid, instant coffee, dark red powdered drink mix or liquid red food coloring (single-serve instant coffee and Kool-Aid packets work well) – Object Lesson
- Flashcards for Bible Story “God Gives a Picture of the Promised Savior” – Bible Lesson
- Missionary Story Flashcards – Missionary Story
- Trash Can and 3 beanbags or balls – Review Game
- God's Promise Verse Cards – Small Group (Resource Pack)
- Quiet Time Sheet for Lesson 4 – Dismissal (Resource Pack)

Schedule at a Glance (75 min club):

15 min – Small Group
 10 min – Word Up / Worship
 10 min – Object Lesson
 15 min – Bible Lesson
 10 min – Review Game
 5 min – Missionary Story
 10 min – Small Group



SMALL GROUP

Say Memory Verse

Have kids say their memory verse from last week to their small group leader

Three Questions Practice

Go through John 1:12 and ask the Three Questions: “What does it say, What does it mean, What is God saying to me?”

WORSHIP

To learn songs and motions, go to cefonline.com/freedemos

“Jesus is the Good News”

“To All Who Did Receive Him”

**WORD UP!****"God provided the Savior!"**

People have lots of needs. Some people need money to pay bills. Others need medicine to help with a sickness. Others need a good friend to be there for them. The greatest need that every person in the world has is the need to be forgiven of sins. God provided just what we need by sending His Son, Jesus. When you hear one of your teachers say **"Word Up!"** in club today, call out **"God provided the Savior!"** (Say with children.)

WORSHIP**"Jesus is the Good News"****"To All Who Did Receive Him"****OBJECT LESSON****Color-Changing Sacrifice**

Materials: clear plastic water bottle with lid (remove label), instant coffee, dark red powdered drink mix or liquid red food coloring (single-serve instant coffee and Kool-Aid packets would work great)

What You Do:

Start with the full water bottle. It represents our life. Explain that *every one of us* will sin. Add just a few granules of coffee and let the children see as it spins down into the water and dissolves. It'll be a weird yellow. Continue to name some sins and add the instant coffee for each example. The water will get progressively uglier and dirtier. Begin to talk about Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the cross. As you do so, pour the dark red drink mix into the bottle. The color will transform dramatically, and the gross brown water is gone. Explain that when Jesus died on the cross, His blood covered your sins so that you can be forgiven. This sacrifice covers all sins...from now until forever! Add more granules of coffee and explain that sometimes we still sin and do things that make God sad. Make a point to explain how Jesus' blood still covers those sins - the water is still red!

What You Say:

This water bottle here is going to represent our life. The Bible, God's true Word, says that everyone was born with a "want to" to sin. Sin is anything that we think, see, say, or do that makes God sad or breaks His laws. Sin makes our hearts dark and separates us from God. (*Hold up bag or packet of instant coffee*) This is going to represent our sin. What is something a kid your age might do that would be a sin? (*Allow the kids to answer. For each answer, add a pinch of instant coffee into the water bottle.*) Gross, do you see how this sin is making the water dark and icky? Our hearts become dark with sin, and because God is holy, or perfect, He cannot be around our sin.

The Bible says that all sins must be punished. We can never be good enough or do enough good things to pay for our own sins. When somebody ELSE decides to pay so you don't have to, that's called *sacrifice*. That's what Jesus did. Jesus loved us so much, that He decided to become our sacrifice. That's why He died on the cross for us – not because He did anything wrong, but because somebody without any sin had to be the sacrifice for us. And

the best news is that He didn't stay dead....after three days, He rose from the dead, and He is alive today! Because of what Jesus did on the cross, your sins can be forgiven and you can live with Him forever in heaven one day! When we pray and say, "Jesus, I've done bad things, and because of that, I can't go to Heaven. I know you are the only way for me to get there. Please forgive me of my sin", Jesus puts His own blood on our hearts. *(Pour the red drink mix into the bottle. The color will transform dramatically, and the gross brown water is gone.)*

So when God looks at our hearts now, does He see that old nasty sin water? No! What does He see? Jesus' blood! Now, that sounds gross, but it really isn't. When you fall and skin your knee, and it starts bleeding, who do you run to? (Kids will probably answer mom or dad.) Do they usually yell "EWWW!!! That's gross, get away from me!!!", or do they give you a hug and say, "Come here, honey, you're my child and I love you!" So, when God the Father looks at us and sees Jesus' blood on our hearts, He doesn't say, "Ewww, that's gross" – He says "That's my child; you're precious to me and I love you!"

After we've asked Jesus to save us, and His blood is on our hearts, we sometimes still do bad things. *(Add a few more instant coffee granules to the bottle.)* But did the sins turn the water nasty again? No - we still have Jesus' blood on our hearts. In God's eyes, we still look the same – we have Jesus' blood on our hearts, we are His children, and He still loves us. So, all we have to do now is ask Him to forgive us, and decide to do what is right next time.



BIBLE LESSON

(Show a large jar with sparkly stones or beads in it. Have several children guess how many are in the jar. If you wish, you may have children guess how many are in the jar when they first come to club, recording their guesses. Reveal how many are in the jar as you begin the lesson.) There are a lot of beads in this jar, aren't there! It was fun trying to guess how many were in there. Here's another question. How many stars do you think are in the sky? *(Allow children to guess.)* Scientists don't even know how many stars there are! They estimate there are more than 400 billion stars in the Milky Way galaxy alone! That's the galaxy we live in. There are billions of galaxies, each containing billions of stars! Only God, who created the stars, knows how many there are. And He even names them!

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Do you remember from last time the promise God made Abraham that had something to do with stars? *(Allow response.)* God promised Abraham that his family—his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and so on—would be more in number than the stars he could see in the sky! That was a big promise—but nothing is too big or hard for God. The promise was especially big because Abraham and Sarah didn't have even one child and they were too old to have children. How could Abraham be a patriarch (head of a family) if he didn't have children?

Flashcard 3-5

Someone tell me how God kept His promise to Abraham and Sarah. *(Allow response.)* They had a baby boy named Isaac and they were very happy. They loved Isaac so much and they loved worshipping God!

In Abraham's time, one of the ways people worshipped God was by making sacrifices to the one true God. To make a sacrifice, people would kill and burn a specially chosen animal on a pile of rocks called an altar. God does not want His people to do this today because Jesus became the sacrifice for sin once and for all. After Isaac had grown into a young man, God decided to test Abraham's faith in Him. Abraham was the only person in all of history whom God tested in this way. This is not a test God will ask you to do.

Flashcard 4-1

God spoke to Abraham, (*read Genesis 22:1b-2*). God told Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a burnt offering.

Did God really want Abraham to give up his precious son's life on an altar? No, God was testing Abraham's faith! God never, ever wants anyone to sacrifice another person. People are special because God made them in His image. Abraham knew this. Abraham knew the character of God—what God is like. He knew that God is holy and God is love. Abraham also knew of God's promise to bless the nations of the entire world through his family, starting with Isaac. The Bible tells us that Abraham's knowledge of God and faith in Him was so strong that he knew Isaac would live. Abraham didn't know how, but because Abraham knew God so well, he knew God was going to keep His promise and save Isaac's life. Abraham knew God and knew he could trust God to do something to rescue Isaac! Abraham was willing to obey God because he knew God could be trusted. He knew God was faithful and always does what is right.



If you have received Jesus as your Savior, **trust God even when it is hard**. Maybe there has been a death in your family and you miss that person very much. Or your parent has remarried and you are trying to get used to your new family. When hard things come into your life, you can remember that God is there to help you. (*Read Psalm 46:1.*) You can give your problems to God in prayer and know He understands how you feel. Things will not always turn out the way that you want them to, but God will help you through it no matter what. He is your strength in trouble. You can trust Him!

Abraham knew He could trust God. The Bible tells us Abraham was trusting God with the life of his son. He believed God was able to save Isaac and even raise him from the dead. Abraham chose to trust God, who is faithful. How would God rescue Isaac? Abraham was going to find out.

Flashcard 4-2

The next morning Abraham woke Isaac and told him they were going to the mountains of Moriah to make a sacrifice to God. They quickly prepared for their three-day trip. What kinds of things do you think they would need to take? (*Allow response.*) They might take blankets, food and clothes too. The trip was long and tiring as they walked along the way. Finally on the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the mountains of Moriah ahead of them. Listen to what he said to his servants. "Wait here with the donkey. Isaac and I will go over that mountain and worship and then we will come back here to you." What did Abraham say? (*Allow response.*) He said "we will come back." See how Abraham trusted that God was going to rescue Isaac and that both of them would be coming back? Abraham had complete trust in his faithful God.

Flashcard 4-3

Abraham took the wood and tied it on Isaac's back for him to carry. Stand up and imagine you are lifting a heavy bundle of wood. (*Allow response.*)

As Abraham and Isaac walked together up the mountainside, Isaac noticed that something was missing.

"Abraham and Isaac" skit

Isaac: (*Looks confused.*) Father?

Abraham: Yes, my son?

Isaac: Where is the lamb for the sacrifice?

Abraham: God will provide a lamb for a burnt offering.

Flashcard 4-4



Why did a lamb have to die? God gave His people some laws (rules) to live by. Some of those laws said that God's people needed to offer sacrifices. The sacrifice was never supposed to be a person. Some sacrifices were to show how awful sin is and that the payment for sin is death.

The Bible tells us sin is a serious thing. (*Read Romans 6:23.*) Everyone has sinned. Sin is disobeying God's laws—His rules. When you think hateful things about others, that is sin. Maybe when you see that your friends are making fun of someone at school, you go along with them so they won't make fun of you or quit being friends with you. That is also sin. God sees all sin. All sin is against God and must be punished. The punishment for sin is death—separation from God now on Earth and also forever in a place without any love, joy or kindness. Because you and I are born with a “want to” to sin, we deserve to be separated from God. Sin is serious.

God wanted His people to know how serious sin is. He required them to offer sacrifices where a lamb or other animal would die in their place. As Abraham and Isaac reached the top of the mountain, Abraham built an altar. When the last stone was in place, he took the wood and laid it on top. He tied Isaac and put him on the altar. The time had come to make the sacrifice.

Suddenly, at the last moment, Abraham heard a voice!

“Abraham! Abraham!” Let's shout that together, “Abraham! Abraham” (*Do with children.*) It was the Angel of the Lord! Abraham answered, “Here I am.”

Flashcard 4-5

Then the angel said, (*read Genesis 22:12*).

Abraham had shown his amazing faith. He had passed the test! God never intended for Isaac to be sacrificed. People are valuable to God and He loves all people. He loved Abraham and Isaac.



Did you know that God loves you, no matter who you are or what you've done? Why does God love you? Because the Bible says God is love, (*read 1 John 4:8b*). He is the one who made you. The great Creator of the universe—the one who made the stars, the seas and the mountains—also made you! Not only did God make you, but He also knows all about you. He is the holy God, pure from every kind of evil. Yet He loves you and wants you to be with Him in Heaven someday. You are valuable to God. God's love for you is forever!

All people are valuable to God. He loves all people. God loved Abraham and Isaac. Just then Abraham turned and saw a ram caught in a thorn bush by its horns! God had provided an animal for the sacrifice!

Word Up!, “God provided the Savior!” (*Say with children.*)

Flashcard 4-6

Abraham and Isaac must have worshiped God with grateful hearts as they sacrificed the ram. Why did God ask Abraham to sacrifice Isaac? God wanted to show us a picture of what the Savior would do. About two thousand years later, the Savior would be a sacrifice for you and me, dying in our place, just as the ram was a sacrifice for Isaac.

After Abraham and Isaac lived, people offered sacrifices for sin for thousands of years. Many lambs died but the blood of all the lambs couldn't completely forgive the sins of the people. The lambs reminded Abraham's family that one day a Savior would come who would pay for sin once and for all.



That Savior was God's only Son, the Lord Jesus. The Bible calls Him the perfect Lamb of God. (*Read John 1:29b.*) Thousands of years after Abraham and Isaac lived, Jesus came to Earth to willingly give His life as a sacrifice for your sin. He lived a sinless life but was falsely accused by wicked

men and sentenced to die. They pushed a crown of thorns onto His head and pounded nails into His hands and feet. His blood flowed on the cross for our sin. The Bible says, *(read Revelation 1:5b)*. Because of Jesus' great love for you, He willingly bled and died on the cross so you could be freed from the punishment of your sin. He did what none of the sacrificed lambs could do—He took your punishment on Himself. Now no more animals would have to be sacrificed. After Jesus died, He was buried, but on the third day something amazing happened. He came alive again! Many people saw Him, then after a time He returned to Heaven, where He is alive today. God loves you so much that He provided His Son, Jesus, as your substitute to take your place and die for your sin.

Word Up! “God provided the Savior!” *(Say with children.)*

Abraham and Isaac were so thankful that God had provided a sacrifice to take Isaac's place.

CLIMAX

Isaac was saved by the substitute God had provided! Isaac would someday have children of his own just as God had promised. He would be the next patriarch of the family.

CONCLUSION

Abraham named this special place Jehovah-Jireh (*juh-HOE-vuh JYE-ruh*), which means “the Lord will provide.” Before they left the mountain to return to the waiting servants, the Angel of the Lord spoke to Abraham again, reminding him of God's promises. Abraham had trusted and obeyed Jehovah-Jireh—the loving God who provides a way for sin to be forgiven!

INVITATION



God has provided the only way for your sin to be forgiven. Perhaps you have realized today that your sin separates you from God but that Jesus died in your place. The Bible says, *(read John 1:12)*. If you are willing to receive Jesus—take Him as your own—believing (trusting completely) on the Lord Jesus as the one who died on the cross and came alive again for you, you can become God's child. God will forgive you and you will become part of His forever family. He will change you on the inside and give you strength to obey Him. Will you believe on Jesus? Bow your head and close your eyes. If you want to believe on Jesus as your Savior today or you want to talk to me about what that means, show me by raising your hand. *(Acknowledge responses.)* You may open your eyes. If you raised your hand to show me that you want to believe on Jesus, please meet me *(designate time and location)*. I will show you more from God's Word how you can become a child of God.



REVIEW GAME

Toss the beanbag

When a team answers a question correctly, they get 100 points for their team. Then the person that answered gets to come up and toss 3 beanbags or balls into a bucket. (A classroom trash can work great for this. Just take out the trash bag for the game and replace it after.) They get 100 more points for every beanbag that lands in the bucket.

1. What was God's promise to Abraham about his family? *(That he would have a son; that they would be a great nation; that they would be as many as the stars in the sky.)*
2. What did God tell Abraham to do to test his faith? *(Offer Isaac as a sacrifice.)*

3. How did Abraham know he could trust God? *(He knew what God was like and remembered the promise God had made to bless the world through his family.)*
4. What is the punishment for sin? *(Separation from God.)*
5. What was one reason people were required to offer sacrifices to God? *(To show how bad sin is and that the punishment for sin is death.)*
6. What did God provide for Abraham's offering that day? *(A ram caught in a bush.)*
7. What is something about God that helps you remember to have faith in Him? *(Answers will vary.)*
8. Just as God provided a sacrifice for Abraham and Isaac, how did He provide a sacrifice for you? *(By sending Jesus to come to Earth and die to take the punishment for your sin.)*
9. Why could Jesus be our perfect sacrifice? *(Because He is holy and never sinned.)*
10. What did Jesus do that none of the sacrificed lambs could do? *(Took the punishment for our sin once and for all.)*
11. According to our memory verse, how can you become a child of God? *(By believing on Jesus as your Savior; by receiving Jesus.)*
12. How can you grow your faith in God? *(Read your Bible, talk to God, listen in church and GNC.)*

MISSIONARY STORY

Adhiambo Serves God in South Sudan - Part 5



God promised to lead Adhiambo's life and He did! She took more classes to become a better teacher of teachers. She continued to help Christians learn how to teach the Bible to children. Adhiambo had served God in Mombasa for several years before moving to the city of Nairobi. Then she began traveling from there to other countries in Africa to train teachers and help children know about Jesus.

For a long time Adhiambo prayed for the children of Sudan—the largest country in Africa. Homes, hospitals, schools and entire villages had

been destroyed in a long war. Many children had become orphans and were trying to survive on their own. Adhiambo asked God, "How will those children hear of Jesus' love for them? Who will tell them?"

God sent Pam, another missionary from the United States, to teach the Bible to the children of South Sudan. But Pam needed someone to work with her and help her learn African ways. Adhiambo was just the right person! God answered Adhiambo's prayers for the children of Sudan—He was sending her and Pam to tell them about Jesus!

Two years later, Adhiambo and Pam boarded a plane to go to the village of Keew (*Kay-ō*) in South Sudan. Adhiambo looked out the window of the plane and saw empty land with occasional clusters of mud and grass huts. *The war has destroyed almost everything*, Adhiambo thought. She felt very sad for the Sudanese people.

When the plane landed, people of all ages ran toward the plane

shouting, “Marle! (*mar-lā*) Marle! (Hello! Hello!)” Smiling children surrounded Adhiambo as she got off the plane, taking her by the hand and saying, “Marle!” The children were so thin! Because of the war many people were starving in South Sudan. But they were excited to see Adhiambo and she was excited to see them and tell them about Jesus. Adhiambo and Pam each had their own hut to sleep in for the next two weeks. There were many dangers—snakes and bats hiding in the grass roofs and scorpions scurrying across the floors and hiding in their beds and clothing. Do you think Adhiambo and Pam

were afraid? Yes, but they asked God to keep them safe and give them courage.

One afternoon Adhiambo was sitting behind her hut studying when she heard a loud noise. She looked up and saw a dangerous monitor lizard crawling from under a large pile of sticks! What do you think she did? (*Allow response.*) She was used to wild animals so she just kept studying!

Find out next time who helped Adhiambo and Pam tell children about Jesus!



SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

“What Has God Promised?” (Optional discussion)

Do you know who God’s promised Savior is? (*Allow response.*) God always keeps His promises because He is faithful. You can trust that what He promises in His Word will happen. Let’s discover some of His promises to us! (*Read each verse or call on a child to read. Then ask the children what God promises in the verse.*)

- John 14:27—Jesus promises to give us peace so we do not need to be afraid.
 - Romans 10:9—If you believe on Jesus as the one who died and rose from the dead for your sin, you will be saved.
 - 1 John 1:9—When you agree with God about your sin, God promises to forgive you.
 - 1 Peter 5:7—You can tell God all your worries and fears because He cares for you.
 - Isaiah 41:10—You do not have to fear because God will always be with you.
- Let’s pray and thank God for His promises. (*Lead children in prayer.*)

DISMISSAL

Hand out a Quiet Time Sheet (Week 4 in the Resource Pack) to each child. Encourage them to fill it out and bring it back next week. As children are getting picked up, try and connect with the parents and have the child tell the parent one promise God made that they remember.

God Gives a Picture of the Promised Savior – Isaac's Sacrifice

This page has been designed for you to photocopy and place in your Bible as a ready reference.

Lesson Outline

I. INTRODUCTION

How many stars do you think are in the sky? Only God, who created the stars, knows how many there are.

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

God promised Abraham that his family would be more in number than the stars in the sky.

A. Flashcard 3-5 (Genesis 22:1a)

1. God kept His promise to Abraham and Sarah by giving them Isaac.
2. It was common in those days for people to make sacrifices as a part of their worship.

B. Flashcard 4-1 (Genesis 22:1b-2; Hebrews 11:17-19)

1. God told Abraham to take his son to the mountains of Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice.

C. Flashcard 4-2 (Genesis 22:3-5)

2. Abraham knew God would save Isaac's life.
3. **Trust God even when it is hard.** [Psalm 46:1]
4. Abraham trusted God.

D. Flashcard 4-3 (Genesis 22:6-8)

1. Abraham and Isaac prepared for their trip to Moriah.
2. They reached Moriah and Abraham told the servants to wait while he and Isaac went up on the mountain to worship.

E. Flashcard 4-4 (Genesis 22:9-12; Exodus 20:24)

1. Isaac noticed that they didn't have a lamb to sacrifice.
2. Abraham said that God would provide a lamb for the burnt offering.
3. Many years after Abraham lived, God gave His people laws, including laws on offering sacrifices.
4. All sin is against God and must be punished. [Romans 6:23]
5. When they got to the top of the mountain, Abraham built an altar.
6. When it was time to make the sacrifice, the Angel of the Lord told Abraham not to harm Isaac.

F. Flashcard 4-5 (Genesis 22:13)

1. The great Creator of the universe, the one who made the stars, the seas and the mountains, also made you and loves you! [1 John 4:8b]
2. Abraham turned and saw a ram caught in a thorn bush. It would take Isaac's place as the sacrifice!

G. Flashcard 4-6 (Genesis 22:14)

1. Abraham and Isaac worshipped God with grateful hearts.
2. After Abraham and Isaac lived, people offered sacrifices for sin for hundreds of years.
3. Jesus did what none of the sacrificed lambs could do—He took your punishment on Himself. [John 1:29; Revelation 1:5b]

III. CLIMAX

Isaac was saved by the substitute God had provided! Isaac would go on to have children of his own just as God had promised.

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. Abraham named the place Jehovah-Jireh (the Lord will provide).
- B. Take Jesus as your own [John 1:12]

Scripture verses in parentheses are background text.
Bracketed verses should be quoted or read from God's Word.