

Teaching Plan for June 3, 2018
Lesson 1, Rescue & Redemption, "The Lord Will Provide"
Genesis 22, Abraham & Isaac, Teaching Plan by Dr. Williamson

CREATE INTEREST

1. SAY: For those who are "shoppers," one money-saving favorite is searching for and then using coupons or discounts. Think of a recent time you (or someone in your family/friend) redeemed a coupon. ASK: What was the coupon /discount for? How much do you think you saved? Discuss. Allow several to share. Answers will vary. Teacher should be prepared to share a personal example.

2. SAY: Redeeming a coupon or discount code is the most commonly understand use of the word "redemption" in our society. Our summer study is entitled "Rescue and Redemption," but it's not about redeeming a coupon. Redemption is a biblical term, referred to several times in both Old and New Testaments. Redemption, or being "redeemed" in the Bible, was someone else stepping in and covering or paying a debt that was owed for someone else; or stepping in and filling the place on behalf of someone else.

3. SAY: Redemption was ALWAYS God's plan. From the very beginning, God new his creation was going to sin and mess up. (God is omniscient and knows everything). God knew his creation would need rescuing. From the very foundation of the world, God's plan included rescue and redemption, ultimately through His son, Jesus. In the Old Testament, God's people received redemption from their sin by sacrificing an animal, to pay for their sin. The animal became the redeeming tool for the people's sin. Today's Bible study looks at God's action of rescuing and redemption through the story of the Old Testament patriarch, Abraham, and his son, Isaac. Abraham and Isaac are two key figures in the Old Testament. God was going to use them both to build not only a people for himself, but so that through His people, God would be able to bless the world (in the person of Jesus, the Messiah).

GUIDE BIBLE STUDY

4. ASK: Based on previous study, what do you already know about who Abraham was, and what God asked Him to do? Discuss. Include the following.

- Abraham's original name was Abram
- Abraham was already well advanced in years, 70+, when God came to him and asked him to leave his family of origin, and go to an unknown place God would lead him to. If Abram agreed, God promised He would make him the father of many nations.
- Abram and his wife Sarai agreed to follow God's plan. God changed their names to Abraham and Sarah.
- Sarah was also advanced in years, well beyond child-bearing age. God told Abraham that he and Sarah would have a baby, which would then lead to multiple descendants. Sarah laughed.
- God's promise came true! Although Abraham and Sarah tried to take matters into their own hands with Hagar and Ishmael.
- Sarah became pregnant. They named their son, Isaac, which means "God laughs."
- Isaac was the result of God's promise. He was the delight of Abraham and Sarah.
- And then one day, God decided to test Abraham—not to tempt him to fail, but to test him to see where his ultimate loyalties were. Was Abraham still devoted to God, or had he become more devoted to his son, Isaac?

- God asked Abraham to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac.

SAY: This is where we begin today's study of rescue and redemption.

5. Have volunteer read Genesis 22:1-2. SAY: The Scripture says this was a test. Our commentary says "because it was a 'test,' God never intended to allow Abraham to follow through with sacrificing Isaac" (pg. 21, regular print commentary.). However, the big questions are, "Why would God test Abraham in this way? And how far would Abraham have to go to pass the test?" We've already said that God doesn't test us to try and get us to "fail," He tests us in order to help us grow closer to Him in some way. Because of Jesus Christ and His final sacrificial death for us, God would NEVER and will NEVER ask us (or anyone) to make a similar human sacrifice ever again. (People who say they "hear voices," and claim it is God, are completely being deceived by the evil one.) That is not God.

6. Read the first part of verse 3: "Early the next morning, Abraham got up and saddled his donkey." SAY: Just like when Abraham left his family of origin and demonstrated his obedience to God, Abraham was once again obedient to God in this new test. Abraham's obedience was immediate.

OPTIONAL QUESTION: How do we know when God is speaking to us? (discuss). Answer: Henry Blackaby, author of Experiencing God, says today, God always speaks to us through His Holy Spirit. The Spirit either speaks through His written Word; through Prayer; Through Godly individuals (the church); or through circumstances. But the circumstances are the least reliable. Never base God's voice only on circumstances.

7. SAY: Back to our passage, Abraham set a good example of immediate obedience when we know God wants us to do something for Him.

8. Have volunteer read Gen. 22:3-8. ASK: What signs (or words) do you see in these verses that indicate Abraham knew he could trust God? Site the verse for your answer. Possible answers:

- Vs. 5, "we will worship and then we will come back to you."
- Vs. 8. "God himself will provide the lamb."

SAY: This was an incredible test. I can't even imagine what was going through Abraham's mind. But obviously, Abraham trusted God. Abraham remembered what God had promised him from the very beginning, and that God had led him every step of the way. Abraham had learned he could trust God, even in this time of testing.

9. Have volunteer read Gen. 22:9-11. SAY: The pace of the story really slowed down at this crucial point. How far would Abraham have to go to pass the test? The details are almost excruciating to read. And at the very last moment, God intervened.

10. Have volunteer read vs. 12. SAY: Remember, the summer series is called "Rescue & Redemption." God literally rescued Isaac, and in a sense, He rescued Abraham as well. Think about this statement: What God did not let Abraham do, God did himself. God didn't let Abraham sacrifice his son, Isaac, but God instead asked his own son, Jesus, to die on the cross for humanity's sin. God sacrificed his own son in order that we might be rescued from the brokenness of this world and from sin. God's good news of redemption is literally seen—if we're watching and reading carefully—throughout every book of the Bible.

11. SAY: As the next verses are read, be watching for words that show God is in the business of “providing” and/or “meeting needs.” Have volunteer read vs. 13-19. Afterwards, ASK: What did you see in these verses that show God cares and God provides? Site the verses.

- Vs. 13—the ram caught in the thicket. God really did provide the lamb for Abraham
- Vs. 14—Abraham named the place, “God will Provide.”
- Vs. 15—the Angel of the Lord spoke to Abraham a second time
- Vs. 16-17—God reaffirms the promise to Abraham
- Vs. 18—And through your offspring (Jesus), all the nations of the earth will be blessed.
- Vs. 19—They returned to the servants, just like Abraham said he would

APPLY TO LIFE

12. SAY: It’s fairly easy to follow God when life is going well or smoothly. However, when life gets difficult, or God calls us out of our comfort zones, or God tests us, our trust level in God is revealed.

ASK: What have you learned--from experience or from testing--about God’s provision in difficult or trying times? What are things you’ve learned that could be helpful to someone else? Discuss.

ASK: What possible things in life would be “difficult” to give to God for the average Christian? Discuss.

ASK: What do we learn when we give things up to God? Discuss.

13. SAY: The story of Abraham and Isaac was recorded and passed down through Israel’s heritage. They were central figures in the birth of the nation, Israel, and they became part of what we would call the “hall of fame of faith.” Hebrews 11 is this recorded “hall of faith.” Have volunteer read Hebrews 11:17-19; a new testament summary of Abraham’s testing. SAY: Abraham “faithed in God” with His son, Isaac, knowing that even if something had happened to Isaac, God could raise him back to life.

14. What do you take away from today’s first lesson on Rescue and Redemption? Discuss as time allows. Close in prayer.