

Genesis 22

Abraham and Sarah were so proud and happy when little Isaac was born. Abraham missed his older son, Ishmael but he knew that Isaac was the special son who would inherit everything Abraham owned as well as the promises of God. Abraham and Sarah laughed gaily when Isaac took his first baby steps. When he said his first word, they proudly called the servants to hear and when he climbed his first tree they were frightened and scolded.



Abraham and Sarah told Isaac about his special birth when they were too old to really have a baby. They taught Isaac all the important things about God as well as teaching him about taking care of the sheep and cattle and camels that would one day be his inheritance. Isaac grew up learning to do what was right, for Abraham and Sarah were good teachers and set their son a good example of the right way to live.

One night when Isaac was about 17 years old Abraham had a dream where God spoke to him. God told Abraham to take Isaac to a mountain and to offer him as a burnt offering to God. This meant to kill his special promised son! In those days when men made a sacrifice to God they would offer an animal from their flocks or herds. They killed the animal and then burnt up the carcass. Abraham was astonished and frightened. How could this be? Why would God ask such a thing of him? How could Isaac be the promised son if he was to be killed? God was seeing how well Abraham love him, would Abraham obey? Did he really believe in God's promises or had he quit listening to God? What do you think Abraham did?

Well, Abraham got a donkey and loaded it up with some blankets for overnight and a little bag of food. He took a pot and put some burning coals in it from the fire by his tent and he tied some wood on the donkey for the burnt offering. Then he told Isaac they were going on a trip.



Isaac probably wondered about the trip. It was fun to be going somewhere with his father, but why was his father so sad? Usually Abraham would be telling Isaac all about the plants they pass and pointing out the birds and the beautiful sunrise and talking about God's promises..

But Instead Abraham looked very worried and quiet and sad.

It must have been very hard for Abraham to obey a command like this. However, Abraham did believe God would keep his word and God had promised that through Isaac would come many, many descendants and eventually the promised seed who would save the world (this was Jesus Christ who wasn't even born yet). So if God wanted Isaac to be a sacrifice, then Abraham believed God would raise Isaac up again for the Lord wouldn't tell a lie.

Your memory verse for this lesson is a promise God gave his people:

Jer.7:23 "Obey me, and I will be your God, and you will be my people."

That's not a very hard verse to learn is it? But it is a very important verse! When you have learned the verse put a check mark in the box

There is a lot of promise in this verse. If we obey God he will watch over us and take care of us like a loving father takes care of his children. If we are his people we will inherit the promises of eternal life on the land he promised Abraham and Isaac.

Two servants traveled with Abraham and Isaac on the journey. They would take care of the supplies and the donkeys that Abraham and Isaac were riding when they climbed up the mountain to offer the sacrifice. Neither the servants nor Isaac knew that this was to be any different than the usual sacrifices of a lamb. They had to travel 40 miles to reach the mountain of Moriah. Walking or riding donkeys meant they would have to travel for about three days. Isaac would enjoy the trip, walking under olive trees and picking a few olives to munch on, passing a snake sunning on a rock, wading through a little creek and camping out at night, sleeping on the ground under the stars. Abraham must have looked up at the night

sky and remembered the promise God made that his descendants would be as many as the stars in the sky. Yet here he was on his way to kill his only promised son. Abraham had to have a lot of faith in God to make this trip, didn't he?



On the third day they reached Mt. Moriah. Abraham left the donkeys and supplies with the two servants. What Abraham told the servants was important. Abraham said, "wait here while Isaac and I go up the mountain to make the sacrifice then WE will return and head home." Even though Abraham knew he was to sacrifice Isaac, he firmly believed that both he and Isaac would return.

As they were climbing up the hill Isaac got to thinking of something. "Father," he said, "I'm carrying the wood and you are carrying the fire...but where is the lamb we're going to sacrifice?" Abraham gave a big sigh and said, "God will provide the lamb my son."

I think Isaac may have started to wonder what was going on. Perhaps he began to think this was the reason Abraham looked so worried and sad. Do you think Isaac may have suspected HE WAS TO BE THE LAMB? When Abraham got to a wide, flat place, he and Isaac picked up some rocks to make an altar. They laid the wood on the altar then Abraham turned to Isaac. Abraham probably told Isaac about his dream and what God had asked of him, then he took a rope and tied Isaac's hands.

Now Isaac was 17 years old, almost a man and young and strong. Abraham was an old man and it would have been easy for Isaac to run away or fight with Abraham...but Isaac didn't do that. Not only Abraham was obedient to God but Isaac was also. He didn't struggle to get away like some of us might have. Isaac believed God would keep his promises and although he didn't understand, he knew they must obey God, so he shut his eyes and allowed his father to place him on the wood.

Then Abraham took a knife out of his belt and raised it above Isaac; but suddenly he heard a loud voice shouting at him, "Abraham, Abraham!" Don't lay a hand on the boy, don't touch him for I now know that you honor God above all else because you haven't held back your only son, but have been willing to offer him to me."



Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by the horns in a bush. Abraham cut the rope off Isaac and they ran to the bush and caught the ram. Abraham used the ram as an offering on the altar instead of Isaac. Abraham and Isaac would have given many prayers of thanksgiving to God that day.



Abraham gave this place on Mt. Moriah a special name.

From then on it was to be called:

"The Lord Will Provide."

Then the angel of God gave Abraham another promise. "Because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

The Jewish nation (called Israelites today) were the ones who descended from Abraham and from Isaac and Jacob and who would be as numerous as the stars in the sky and sand on the seashore (that's a lot of people)! God gave them these promises but also through one special offspring all nations on earth would be blessed.

Who do you think this descendant of Abraham would be? In other places in the Bible we can find out that God was talking about Jesus who would come and bring eternal life to all those who believe in him. People who believe and are baptised will be Abraham's descendants and will inherit the same promises that God gave to Abraham. The Bible tells us this.

That's why reading the Bible is important; it can tell us things in one place and explain them in another. Do you own a Bible of your own?

If you do, good for you! I bet you are starting to read it sometimes, aren't you? If you don't own one perhaps you can read mom or dad's Bible and one day you can get one of your own. God's words to us are in the Bible and the more we read it the easier it is to understand and enjoy.



It was with great joy and happiness that Abraham and Isaac came down the mountain and met the servants. Now as they journeyed homeward Abraham noticed the flowers and birds and felt like singing and joking and laughing with Isaac. It was with a glad heart that Abraham raised his eyes to the sky and thanked the loving father who "provided" for him and watched over him and his son Isaac.

Questions

1. What was Abraham asked to do in order to show he would believe and obey God?
2. If God asks you to do something hard would you obey him and do it?
3. Who did Abraham take on the trip to Mt. Moriah?
4. What did Isaac ask his father as they were climbing the mountain?
5. Why did Abraham tell the servants the he AND Isaac would return from the sacrifice?

Put True or False in the blank spaces on the questions below

1. ____ Isaac didn't want to be sacrificed and he ran, but Abraham caught him.
2. ____ Abraham took wood, fire in a pot and a knife with him to the sacrifice
3. ____ Abraham heard a voice shouting, "hurry and kill him so he won't suffer."
4. ____ Abraham looked up and saw a lamb caught in the bushes

Circle the correct answer in the questions below

1. When Isaac asked where the lamb was, what was Abraham's reply? (a) in the bushes (b) God will provide the lamb (c) Don't ask silly questions
2. In the promise God gave, the descendant through whom all the earth would be blessed was (a) Isaac (b) Abraham (c) Jesus Christ (d) The American nation
3. How can people of today become part of Abraham's descendants and receive the promises? (a) Believe and be baptized (b) Marry a Jewish person (c) It's not necessary to do anything
4. In what book can we read God's words and the more we read the easier it is to understand? (a) History book (b) TV Guide (c) The Bible

Fill in the blanks from the words in red, to show how Isaac and Jesus were alike (note - some words in red do not belong). Then draw a line from the picture to the correct sentence

Isaac's birth was a miracle (Abraham and Sarah were too _____ to have a baby

Isaac was a "promised son"

_____ father took him to be a sacrifice

Isaac was willing to be the sacrifice

Isaac rode on a _____

Isaac carried the wood that he was to be killed on

God saved Isaac from death

Because of this sacrifice Abraham was promised that through his son all nations on earth would one day be _____

Jesus' birth was a miracle - God was his _____

Jesus was promised by God long ago in the B _____

God gave his son to save the world

Jesus was _____ to be sacrificed

Jesus rode on a donkey

Jesus carried the wooden _____ to his death

God raised _____ from the dead

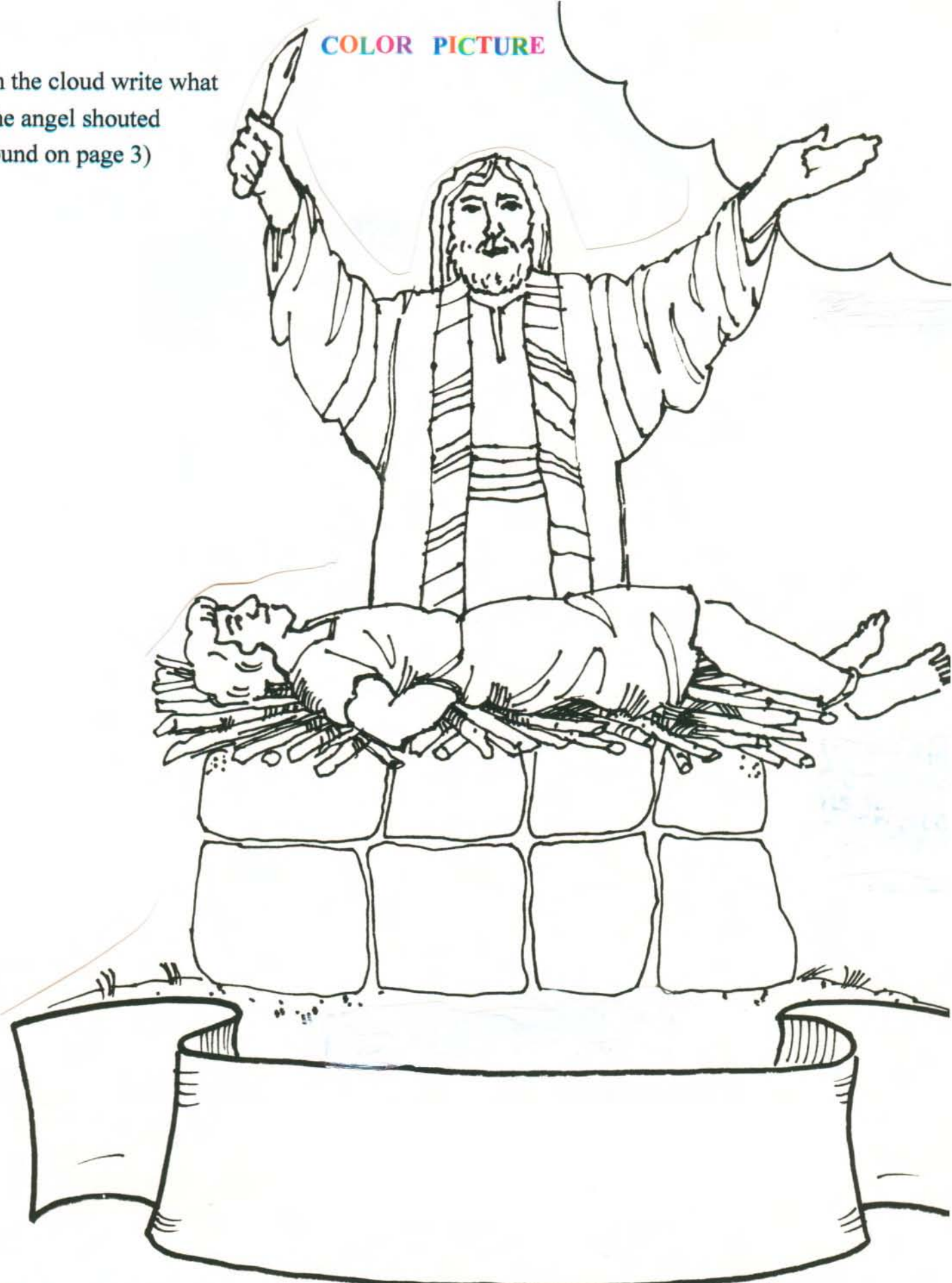
Because of Jesus' _____ all nations in the world will be blessed



Isaac's Blessed Lamb Old Sacrifice Father Willing
Bible School bus Donkey Isaac Flower Cross

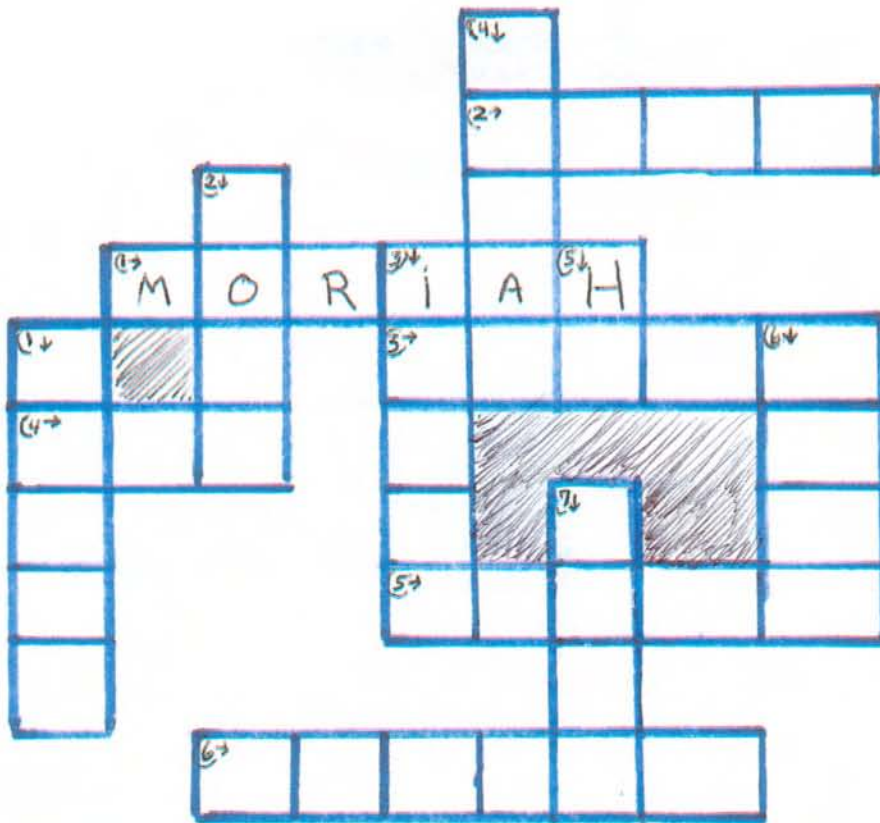
COLOR PICTURE

In the cloud write what
the angel shouted
(found on page 3)



Write the name Abraham gave this place after God showed Abraham the ram ↑ (on page 4)

SACRIFICE OF ISAAC CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CROSSWORD CLUES

(# 1 across is done for you)

Across →

Down ↓

1. The mountain Abraham went to
2. You get on a donkey to _____
3. What a nose does when you sniff a flower
4. When a book is finished it says The _____
5. Abe and Isaac had to _____ to get up Mt Moriah
6. Abraham and Isaac rode on a _____

1. The son of God is _____
2. What logs are made of (it burns)
3. Name of Abraham's promised son
4. God spoke to Abe at night in a _____
5. The opposite of "She" is _____
6. Isaac asked "where's the _____ for the sacrifice?"
7. Abraham took coals of _____ to burn the wood