



◀ **REVIEW PREVIOUS STORIES** *(Guide the group as they give an overview of previous stories and retell the last story)*

▼ **TELL THE STORY** *(Don't just read it—know it and bring it to life!)*

You won't believe what happened next.

God gave Abraham a test. He called out to him, "*Abraham!*"  
"*Yes, I am listening!*" he replied.

God said, "*I want you to take your son Isaac, who you love, up to the top of the mountain and offer him as a sacrifice.*"

The next morning Abraham got up early, saddled up his donkey, and chopped some wood for the offering. After everything was ready, Abraham and his son Isaac took two of their servants and set out for the mountain.

About three days into their journey, they saw the mountain in the distance. Abraham told his servants, "*Stay here—Isaac and I are going up the mountain to worship, then we will come right back.*"

Abraham took the knife and the fire from the servants and he placed the wood for the sacrifice on Isaac's shoulders.

As they were walking up the mountain, Isaac became curious and asked, "*Father, we have the wood and the fire, but where is the lamb we are going to sacrifice?*"  
Abraham told him, "*God himself will provide a lamb.*"

When they arrived at the top of the mountain, they built an altar and placed the wood on it. Then Abraham tied Isaac up and laid him on the altar over the wood. He took the knife and lifted it up to kill his son as a sacrifice to God.

At that moment the Angel of God shouted to him from heaven, "*Abraham! Abraham!*"  
"*Yes, I'm listening!*" he replied.

The Angel said, "*Put down the knife. Do not hurt your son. It's clear that you trust me because you didn't hesitate to give me what you love the most.*"

Then Abraham looked behind him and saw a ram with his horns caught in a bush. He caught the ram, and offered it to God as a substitute for his son. So Abraham named that place at the top of the mountain "God Will Provide".

Soon after that, God said to Abraham, "*Because you didn't refused to give me your son, who you love, I will bless you greatly! Your family will multiply into millions—like the stars in the sky and the sand on the beaches! Your descendants will defeat their enemies on every side. The entire earth will be blessed through your family—because you chose to obey me.*"

Then Abraham and Isaac went down the mountain, met up with their servants, and returned home.



▲ **RETELL THE STORY** (*This may seem redundant, but it is very effective in helping the listeners own the story*)

▼ **DIALOGUE** (*These questions are a good start for you to draw out the group's observations about the story*)

- **What does this story show us about Abraham?**

- What was Abraham's relationship with his son Isaac like?**

- What was the relationship between God and Abraham like?**

- Abraham had a special relationship with God—chosen as the blessing.*

- Abraham had faith that God would keep his promise.*

- Abraham loved his son.*

- Abraham listened to God (and his angel).*

- What did Abraham say to his servants?*

- **What does this story show us about Isaac?**

- Isaac trusted his father.*

- **What was Abraham risking in order to obey God in this story?**

- The promise of God blessing the entire earth through his descendants.*

- **Where have we seen sacrifice before in the stories? Why did people do this?**

- What is God teaching through these sacrifices?**

- God providing clothing from animal skins for Adam and Eve.*

- Cain and Abel, Noah's sacrifice to express thanks to God and acknowledge him as the provider.*

- Noah: after the flood God made it clear that life is in the blood.*

- Isaac: God provided an animal as a substitute—life for life.*

- **What does this story teach us about God?**

- He provides for his people.*

- He tests people's faith.*

- He desires to bless us.*

- He is the source of all grace.*

- He keeps his promises.*

- **Would you obey God if he asked you to do this?**

- ◆ **APPLICATION** (*Optional questions that also work well in smaller groups*)

- What did you notice from the story for the first time?
  - What questions do you have about the story? What do you wonder about?
  - How did the story challenge or encourage you?
  
  - What is the greatest sacrifice that you or someone in your family has ever made?
  - After thinking about this story, what do you think that God desires from us?