

Materials I Need:

Legend:



= Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade



= Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Memory Work:

“By faith, Abraham when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son.” Hebrews 11:17

Aim Questions:

1. Who was Isaac, and what was special about him?
2. Why did Ishmael and his mother leave the family and go live in the desert?
3. Why did God ask Abraham to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering?
4. Who was Rebekah, and how did she become Isaac’s wife?
5. Why can we put more trust in God’s promises than we can in man’s promises?
6. What relationships or things in your life would be hard to give up (sacrifice) for God?



Hook:



Camel Watering Relay (Game). Divide the students up into equal teams. Give the leader of each line a bucket, coffee can or cup. The first person on each team races to the other end of the classroom and “fills their bucket” with water, styrofoam pellets, beans or newspaper wads and runs back to the line. The next person in line takes the bucket and runs to the other end, dumps the contents back and brings the empty bucket back for the next person. The team who finishes first shouts, “The Lord provides!” Have students listen to today’s Adventure to hear how the Lord used the watering of camels to provide something very special for Abraham and Sarah’s promised son.




Seems Like Camping (Object Lesson). Bring these objects in a paper bag: a knife (hunting knife or pocket knife - not a kitchen knife), a piece of wood, and some matches. What might a person do with these objects? Imagine a father and son going up a mountain path. The father is carrying the matches and knife, and the son is carrying some wood. What might they be doing? What other items might they need during their outing? In today’s story, a father and son go up a mountain carrying things similar to these. But the father plans to do something you would never imagine.




Test of Strength (Activity). Bring long pieces of three different kinds of thread, string, ribbon, cord, floss, twine, fishing line, embroidery floss, etc. Also bring several clean rags. Have students guess which of these items is stronger. Can we tell by looking? How can we find out for sure? We TEST them. Put one student on each end of the thread, string, etc. to be tested. Wrap the string around rags for them to hold onto, and have students pull (like a tug of war). Does it break? If not, loop the string around another rag at each end, add two more students and pull. Continue adding students until the material breaks. Test all three items.



Test of Knowledge (Worksheet). Take this short review “bubble” test. Why do teachers give tests? What information do tests provide for teachers? What do we learn about ourselves when we are tested? *Answers: (1) a, (2) c, (3) c, (4) b, (5) a, (6) c, (7) c, (8) c, (9) c, (10) c, (11) b, (12) b, 1GEN08.GF1.*

 **A Good Wife (Activity).** Bring a young man who is unmarried to the front of the class - hopefully someone the students know well. This could be one of the teachers or helpers. Go ahead and embarrass him; it'll be fun. Have the class pretend that they must find him a wife. For what kind of a young woman would they look? How would they recognize such a girl? Hand out small slips of paper. Have each student share one question they would ask a potential wife. For what answer would they be hoping? Read these to the young man. Have him keep them for future reference.

 **Some Good Stuff (Activity/Worksheet).** Part One. Have students list ten things that are most precious to them (these can be intangibles like friendships or abilities), **1GEN08.GF2.**



Book:
Presentation Ideas -

 **Sarah and Hagar (Illustration/Overhead).** Genesis 21:9-14, **1GEN08.GF3.**

 **Abraham and Isaac (Illustration/Overhead).** Genesis 22:5-9, **1GEN08.GF4.**

 **Isaac Meets Rebekah (Illustration/Overhead).** Genesis 24:63-67, **1GEN08.GF5.**

Bible Adventure -

“When the chips are down, that’s when you really find out what a person is like.” Have you ever heard someone say this? There’s a lot of truth to it. We get so skilled at making ourselves look good that people see what we want them to see. But when trials, stress, or danger come our way, what’s really inside comes boiling out. In today’s Bible Adventure, we’re going to see Abraham go through a test unlike any we’ll probably ever have to go through. We’ll take a look at the reasons for the test and at what we can learn from this passage in the book of Genesis.

In our last two lessons we learned that God had promised Abraham and Sarah a son within a year’s time. God keeps His promises, and even though it seemed impossible, Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to her one hundred-year-old husband. Abraham named him Isaac, which means “he laughs.” Sarah laughed in disbelief when the baby was promised to her. Later she laughed with joy at God’s goodness to her and Abraham.

Isaac grew and was the delight of his mother and father, but Sarah still felt she had cause to be unhappy. Ishmael, Abraham’s son with Hagar, mocked Isaac. Sarah saw him and asked Abraham to send Hagar and Ishmael away. Ishmael was now in his teens, and Sarah did not want him to share in the inheritance that would be passed to Abraham’s sons. Abraham was upset at the thought of doing this. Even though Isaac was the son God had promised, Ishmael was also Abraham’s son. God reassured Abraham, letting him know that he should do whatever Sarah suggested. God told him that He would make a great nation out of Ishmael as well.

The next morning, Abraham gave Hagar food and water and sent her off with Ishmael. They wandered into the desert, and soon their water was gone. They both wept, and God heard them. He sent an angel to comfort Hagar and showed her a well of fresh water. God continued watching over Hagar and Ishmael as the boy grew up.

In the meantime, Isaac was growing up, too. By now he was a young man, and Abraham and Sarah were very much enjoying this promised son. Then, God spoke to Abraham and asked him to do something that would be the greatest test he had ever faced. God told Abraham to take Isaac to a mountain in Moriah, and there to sacrifice him as a burnt offering to God. What would you have been thinking if you were Abraham? “God, did I hear you right? You want me to take my son, the son I have waited for so long, and kill him?” Abraham said none of those things. He obediently arose early the next morning, gathered what he would need, and set off the next day for a three day journey with Isaac and two of the young men of his household. Then Abraham said to the two young men with him, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then *we will come back to you.*” Did you catch that? Abraham fully expected to return from the mountain with Isaac! It is obvious that Abraham was still placing his faith in a God who could work miracles. God had promised that Abraham

would father a great nation through his son. Abraham did not know exactly how this was to happen, but He knew God was as good as His word. He and Isaac continued on to the mountain.

As they walked, Isaac asked his father where the lamb was that they would use for the sacrifice. Abraham's answer shows his total faith in God: "God Himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering." Then Abraham built an altar, placed wood upon it and tied Isaac to it. Abraham stretched out his hand and picked up a knife, fully intending to complete the sacrifice. Before he could do it, the angel of the Lord spoke to him, "Do not lay a hand on the boy. Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from Me your son, your only son." It would seem that God did not ever intend for Abraham to sacrifice his son, but in asking him to do it, He found out what was really in Abraham's heart. Abraham had passed the test. He had proven that the most important thing in the world to him was his relationship with God and his obedience to Him.

Abraham, in his willingness to give up the son he loved, also gives us a symbol of God's sacrifice of His own Son, Jesus Christ. God willingly gave Him up as a sacrifice for our sin, and He went willingly, just as Isaac did.

Now Abraham looked up from the altar, and there, tangled in some bushes, was a ram. He took it and used it as a burnt offering to God, in place of his son. The angel called to Abraham again and told him that because he had not withheld what was most precious to him from God, God would bless him, and all nations through him. What a promise!

Sarah, who was now one hundred twenty-seven, died in Hebron. Abraham mourned for her. He purchased land in Hebron where Sarah could be buried. Abraham was also getting very old so he told his oldest servant, Eliezer, to go to Mesopotamia, where Abraham once lived, and get a bride for Isaac from Abraham's family. When he got to the city of Nahor, Eliezer stopped at a well at evening time, when many women would come to draw water. He prayed to God that the woman God wanted as a bride for Isaac would not only get a drink for him, but also for his camels. Before the servant had even finished his prayer, along came Rebekah, Abraham's relative. She went down to the well and filled her pitcher, and as she came up, Eliezer went to meet her and to ask if he might have a drink of water. When he was finished, she said to Eliezer, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking." This was the answer to Eliezer's prayer. When he found out Rebekah was the granddaughter of Abraham's brother, Nahor, he was very happy. Soon he was meeting Rebekah's family. He told them about Isaac and Abraham, and about his prayer at the well and how God had answered it. Rebekah's family gave their blessing on her marriage to Isaac and sent her with Eliezer. Isaac married Rebekah, and his love for her was a comfort to him after his mother, Sarah, died. God was beginning to bring to reality His promise to make a great nation from Abraham.

We know that God chose Abraham to be the foundation of a new nation because of his great faith in God. Today we saw that faith put to the test. Why would God want to test someone in such a way? The Bible makes it clear that God does this in order to see what is really in our hearts. Through the testing we are also able to see for ourselves what is there. Too often our own heart hides what it inside us, because it is deceitful, (Jeremiah 17:9). We think we are doing all right; we compare ourselves with others, and we think we are doing a lot better than they are. We fail to compare ourselves to what God says is right and good. But God already knows our hearts, and He wants us to know what is inside--the pride, the idols, the rebellion and wickedness that keep us apart from Him. Only when we can see it can we confess it, turn from it and have a clean heart, (1 John 1:9).

Testing leads us to a clean heart before God, and it also reminds us of what is really important in this life. In Abraham's case, God slowly peeled him away from everything that he might put in front of God. His father and wife died, Lot moved away, Ishmael left, and he was asked to give up Isaac. Every step Abraham took in being willing to give up these relationships brought him closer to God. Were these relationships bad? No, but until Abraham gave God first place in his life over those relationships, he could not fully worship and have complete fellowship with God. The closer we move to God, the closer He moves to us. Do you have that kind of heart--the kind that seeks God above all else? Let's let the prayer that David prays in Psalm 139 be our prayer: "Search me, O God, and know my heart. Test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (v 23-24 NIV)



Look:

- Where is the Lamb? (Worksheet).** Abraham obeyed God and took Isaac to the mountain to make a sacrifice. Have students work the puzzle to find out how Abraham answered Isaac when he asked where the lamb was for the burnt offering, **1GEN08.GF6**.
 - The Story of Abraham and Isaac (Worksheet).** Have students draw a line to match the events in the left-hand column to the events in the right-hand column, **1GEN08.GF7**.
 - “Test” Vocabulary (Worksheet).** Have students complete this mini-test and summarization regarding Abraham’s testing, **1GEN08.GF8**.
 - Ups and Downs (Worksheet).** Each student will need **1GEN08.GF9 Pgs. 1 & 2**, scissors and glue. Have students cut out the mixed-up story on **1GEN08.GF9 Pg. 2** and glue it back together on **1GEN08.GF9 Pg. 1**.
 - Testing Faith (Bible Drill).** Race to find these verses, **1GEN08.GF10**. Have all students hold their closed Bibles in the air with one hand as each reference is read. Students must then wait for “GO” command.
 - Abraham Obeys (Worksheet).** Color the things that Abraham and Isaac carried with them up the mountain. Cross out the things that were not on the mountain at all. Circle the item God provided, **1GEN08.GF11**.
 - What’s This WE Stuff? (Discussion).** Before Abraham continued up the mountain alone with Isaac, he told his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then **WE** will come back to you.” If Abraham intended to obey God’s command to sacrifice his son, then how could he say they would both come back? Look up Hebrews 11:17-19. What was Abraham thinking?
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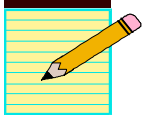
Took:

- Some Good Stuff (Activity/Worksheet).** Part Two. Have students look back through their lists, **1GEN08.GF2**. Have them cross out the one thing they could most easily give up. Then have them cross out one more thing they could live without. Then another. Continue until only one or two things remain. What if God asked you to give up even these? When you really get down to basics, what is absolutely essential? If we lost everything, would Jesus be enough? Read what Paul says in Philippians 3:7- 9, “But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him...”
- ABC Button Banner (Craft).** Have students make a button banner on which to pin their ABC Buttons for the book of Genesis. A take-home kit will be provided for each child when he or she earns the first button. Kits include banner felt, dowel, cording, and instructions with suggestions for individual decoration. These are available upon request.
- ABC Buttons (Memory Work).** Give students the Genesis ABC stats on **1GEN01.GF11** and **1GEN07.GF8** in order to earn their buttons. Buttons are awarded to those successfully memorizing the significant action, Bible verse and character statistics for each lesson throughout the book of Genesis. The ABC’s for Genesis 21-24 are:
 - A. Abraham Tested
 - B. Hebrews 11:17
 - C. Abraham & Isaac

Test Yourself (*Worksheet*). Using the worksheet provided, unscramble the words, and test your knowledge gained from today's Bible Adventure. *Answers: Abraham, sacrifice, trusted, miracles, possessions, belong, passed, test, blessed, obedience, trusted, father, kept, promise, 1GEN08.GF12.*

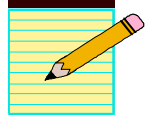
Using Our Possessions to Glorify God (*Craft*). Working from the list the students developed at the beginning of class (**1GEN08.GF2**), talk about how you might use each of those possessions to glorify God this week. Complete the instructions on **1GEN08.GF13**, and use it as a reminder this week.

Too Much to Ask? (*Discussion*). Although we will probably never be asked to do something as difficult as Abraham, sometimes God asks us to do things that are hard for us too. Have students make a list of things that God asks them to do, even though they are difficult. Some suggestions to get things started might be: Love our enemies, love God above all others, unselfishly serve others, be grateful for **all** situations and trials that God places us in, share Christ with others, obey our parents, love our brothers and sisters **all** the time. Use this list this week as you pray and ask God for His forgiveness when you fail, as we always do, in your obedience.



Test of Knowledge

Fill in the correct "bubble."



1. On what day of creation were birds and fish made?
 - (a) Day five
 - (b) Day seven
 - (c) Day twelve
2. How was Adam made?
 - (a) From the dust
 - (b) In God's image
 - (c) Both (a) and (b)
3. What did God say?
 - (a) Do not eat from any tree in the garden
 - (b) Do not touch the Tree of Knowledge
 - (c) If you eat from the Tree of Knowledge, you will die
4. God said, "He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel." God was talking to the serpent about...
 - (a) Adam
 - (b) Jesus
 - (c) Both (a) and (b)
5. Which statement is NOT true?
 - (a) God accepted Cain's sacrifice
 - (b) Cain killed Abel
 - (c) God protected Cain
6. Which statement is true of Noah?
 - (a) Noah was a shipbuilder by trade
 - (b) Noah collected two of every kind of animal and put them in the ark
 - (c) Noah was righteous and walked with God
7. The rainbow is a reminder of God's promise not to...
 - (a) Destroy all life on earth again
 - (b) Send another flood
 - (c) Neither (a) or (b)
8. Which of these was NOT stated as a reason for building the tower of Babel ?
 - (a) To make a way to get to heaven
 - (b) To make a name for themselves
 - (c) So they would not be scattered
9. God promised Abraham...
 - (a) Wealth and wisdom and happiness
 - (b) Protection and land and descendants
 - (c) Both (a) and (b)
10. Sarah was NOT
 - (a) Abraham's wife
 - (b) Abraham's sister
 - (c) Ishmael's mother
11. When Sarah heard Abraham's visitor say she would have a son, she...
 - (a) Rejoiced
 - (b) Laughed
 - (c) Cried
12. Which of these commands did Lot's wife disobey?
 - (a) Flee for your lives
 - (b) Don't look back
 - (c) Don't stop anywhere in the plain

Some Good Stuff

List 10 things that are most precious to you.
(These can also be things such as friendships or abilities.)

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him...”

Philippians 3:7- 9

Sarah and Hagar



Abraham and Isaac



Isaac Meets Rebekah





Where is the Lamb?

Abraham obeyed God and took Isaac to the mountain to make a sacrifice. Isaac asked Abraham where the lamb for the burnt offering was.

Start at the . Copy each letter on the bottom of the page. Continue to follow the ↻ around to find out how Abraham answered Isaac.

	A	B	R	A	H	A	M	A	N	
	D	O	G	,D	E	R	E	W	S	↻
↻	H	I	M	S	E	L	F	W	I	
	E	D	I	V	O	R	P	L	L	↻
↻	T	H	E	L	A	M	B	F	O	
	T	N	R	U	B	E	H	T	R	↻
↻	O	F	F	E	R	I	N	G,	M	
					.N	O	S	Y		↻

Write Abraham's answer here.



The Story of Abraham and Isaac

Draw a line to match the events in the left-hand column to the events in the right-hand column.

Abraham is 100, and Sarah is 90 years old.
Genesis 21:1-8

A great feast is held on the day that Isaac is weaned.
Genesis 21:1-8

Sarah demands that Abraham drive out Hagar and Ishmael.
Genesis 21:11

Abraham gives food and water to Hagar and sends them out.
Genesis 21:12

Abraham and Isaac go to the mountains.
Genesis 22:1-19

Abraham sends for a wife for Isaac.
Genesis 24:1-67

Sarah dies.
Genesis 23:1-20

Rebekah returns with the servant.

Isaac is born as God promised.

God reveals a well of water when food and water run out.

Ishmael mocks Isaac.

Abraham buys the cave of Machpelah.

Isaac asks, "Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

God tells Abraham to do as Sarah says.

“Test” Vocabulary

Write the correct word on the blank by its definition.



altar test instead worship
offering provide bless sacrifice

- _____ A trial or evaluation; an examination.
- _____ To give up willingly at a loss to oneself.
- _____ Something given as an act of worship.
- _____ To give honor and adoration. To show love and respect.
- _____ Supply; furnish. To take care of a need.
- _____ A stand where sacrifices are offered to God.
- _____ In place of; as a substitute.
- _____ To favor, honor, and protect; to make happy and successful.

Write a summary of Abraham’s test using as many vocabulary words as you can.
Look at Genesis 22:1-19 for help.

Ups and Downs



Fortunately -



Unfortunately -



Fortunately -

Unfortunately -



Fortunately -



Unfortunately -



Fortunately -



Unfortunately -

Fortunately -

Unfortunately -



Fortunately -



Ups and Downs



Cut out this mixed-up story, and cut it apart on the lines.

Glue the story back together **in order** on **1GEN08.GF9 Pg. 1**.

✂

God provided a ram at the last minute to be offered instead of Isaac.

Abraham and Sarah had the son God had promised.

Isaac had no wife, and Abraham didn't want him to marry a local girl.

Rebekah had to go far away to marry a man she had never met.

God promised to take care of Hagar and Ishmael.

Abraham bought a field from Ephron the Hittite to bury Sarah.

Rebekah became Isaac's wife, and he loved her.

Abraham set out to sacrifice his son Isaac as God had told him.

Abraham sent his faithful servant to Nahor. Rebekah passed the test to be Isaac's wife.

Sarah died, and Abraham had no place to bury her.

Sarah saw Ishmael mocking and had him sent away.

Testing Faith



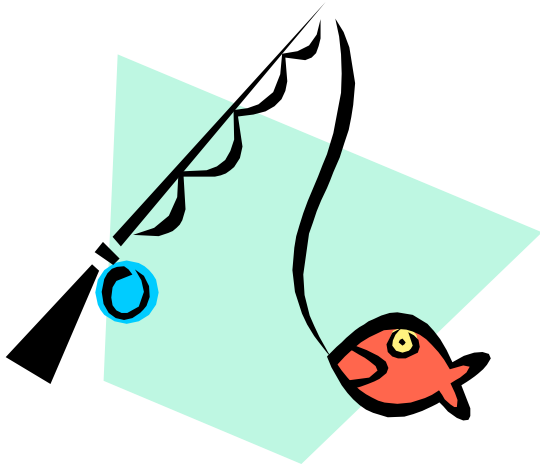
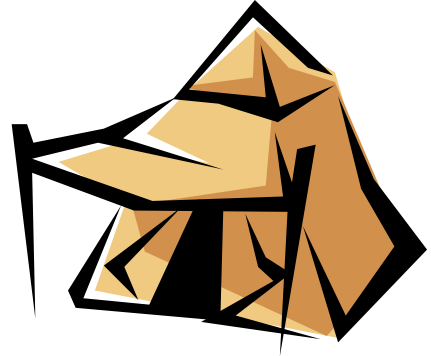
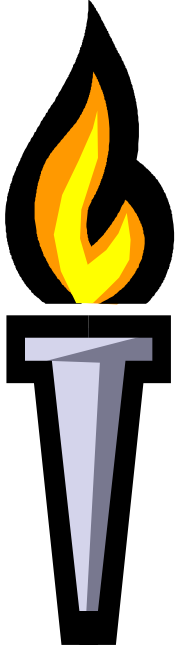
- Genesis 22:1 & 2** “Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, ‘Abraham!’ ‘Here I am,’ he replied. Then God said, ‘Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.’”
- Deuteronomy 8:2** “Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep His commands.”
- Job 23:10** “But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold.”
- Psalms 17:3** “Though You probe my heart and examine me at night, though You test me, You will find nothing; I have resolved that my mouth will not sin.”
- Malachi 3:3** “He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; He will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness,”
- Luke 6:48** “He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.”
- John 6:5 & 6** “When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward Him, He said to Philip, ‘Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?’ He asked this only to test him, for He already had in mind what He was going to do.”
- I Corinthians 3:13** “His work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.”
- I Corinthians 10:13** “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”
- Hebrews 11:17** “By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son.”
- James 1:2 & 4** “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”
- James 1:12 & 13** “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him. When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone.”
- I Peter 1:7** “These have come so that your faith-- of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-- may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”
- I Peter 4:12** “Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.”

Abraham Obeys

Color the things that Abraham and Isaac carried with them up the mountain.

Cross out the things that were not on the mountain at all.

Circle the item God provided.



“By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son.”

Hebrews 11:17



Test Yourself



Unscramble the words below the boxes, and fill in the letters in their proper order to complete the facts you learned from our Bible Adventure today.

God asked to his son.
m b h A a r a c i f a c e r i s

Abraham God for
s r e t d u t r c s m i e l a

All of our to God.
s i o s p o s n s e s l e n b g o

Abraham God's
a e s d p s t t s e

Abraham was for his
l e d b s e s b c i n o e e d e

Isaac his
r t s d e t u r a f t e h

God His to Abraham.
e t k p o s p i m e r

Using Our Possessions to Glorify Him

How can we use our possessions (all that God provides) to glorify Him? Write out a list of your prized possessions on the lines provided. Color the picture of Abraham and his son Isaac. Cut out both pieces, and glue them back to back. Punch out the hole at the top, and thread a piece of yarn or string through it. Use the yarn to tie this card somewhere in a prominent spot as a reminder during the week. Concentrate on using everything we have for the glory of God.

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All I have belongs to God

1GEN08.GF13

