



Date: _____

Series: Meet the Amazing Jesus
Winter Year 3, Lesson 39

Faith Means Believing and Obeying

Primary Scripture: Genesis 22 Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac

Key Verse: Genesis 22:8, "...God will provide a lamb for the burnt offering, Son."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids need to know that as they trust and believe in God, they are assured of a secure relationship with him through the sacrifice of Jesus. However, faith in God is not just a matter of thinking in our heads. Faith is also a matter of acting out the relationship we have with God. Because we have faith, we gladly try to obey what God has told us to do. Kids need to understand that obedience to God does not earn them heaven, but it is important because when we obey, we show God our love and faith in him.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus was God's ultimate sacrifice in our place. What God would never ask a person to do – sacrifice his own son – he would do himself.

Jesus in us: Because of Jesus' love for us he laid down his own life. He did this so that he might dwell in us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus through us: As we live lives of sacrifice, Jesus' presence lives through us.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Invite the kids to have a quick bragging session on God. Divide them into two groups and tell them to pretend that they have been invited to a great debate to see whose God is greater. Tell them that in this pretend debate, they don't realize that both sides are talking about the same God.

Let them take turns describing what are the greatest things about their God. They may brag about his creative powers, amazing things he did in history, his special blessings, his eternal dominion, etc.

Ask the kids what they think is the absolute greatest thing about God. Then quote from 1 John 4:9, 10:

"God has shown us his love by sending his only Son into the world so that we could have life through him. This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the payment for our sins."

The greatest gift God gave us is his Son who gave us his whole life. The reason we come together in church is to thank and worship him for being such a wonderful God. If we do not do that, we would forget how wonderful he is and how much he loves us.

Today we will talk about how God loved us so much that he sacrificed his own Son. If we believe, then we have faith. God's word says this is all we need to be saved. Having faith means that we not only trust in Jesus as our Savior, but we also obey what he tells us to do – love others.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies: blindfold, locked door or box, key to unlock door or box, bag of hard candy (individually wrapped)

Ask for a volunteer and blindfold him/her. Then pick up the key and say:

You are about to go on a journey. At the end of your journey is a treasure in a locked box (or behind a locked door). I have a key that will unlock the box (or door) at the end of your journey. Do you want the key or not?

If he/she says "yes," give him/her the key.

Next, give him walking instructions to make his way toward the door or box. Make sure that some of the instructions will be hard to understand and might result in a harmless stumble. Have him walk around objects or other kids. Unknown to the blindfolded child, have two adults "shadow" him wherever he goes to protect him as necessary.

At a certain point, have the "angels" carry the child to the destination, remove the blindfold and let the child unlock the door/box and retrieve the candy treasure. Tell the kids they'll all get a piece of candy when the movie starts in a few minutes. Then ask the kids how this is like, or not like, our journey through life with God. Bring out the following:

- The child didn't quite understand what was meant sometimes but he still tried to do what was said. *That's what we need to do with God – even when we don't fully understand, we should obey.*
- There were two people protecting him as he obeyed the instructions. *God sends his angels to protect us.*

- The instructor knew where he wanted the child to go, but the child didn't. He had to trust the instructor to get him there safely. Was that hard? *Sometimes it may be hard to trust God, because we're not sure where he's taking us. But we can trust him to guide us one step at a time. We just need to obey.*
- The child didn't know what was waiting for him on the other side of the door (or in the box), but you promised it was a treasure. He will share that treasure with the other kids. *We don't know exactly what heaven will be like, but God has commanded us to tell others about heaven so they can experience it, too.*

Pray a prayer confessing that we don't always obey God as trustingly as we should. Sometimes we do things that we know are wrong because we don't fully trust God to know what's best for us.

Thank God for his forgiveness in Jesus. Thank him for the treasure that awaits us in heaven.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Offerings can be an expression of our sacrifice to God. When was the last time you gave up something that you really, really did not want to? Sometimes it is important for us to do that. Giving up our money when it is hard for us to do so is one of the ways we can show God our love. He blesses us for doing this. After all, think how much God gave up when he gave us his Son, Jesus.

Discuss the current mission project and talk about how this shows Jesus' love to those in need.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Supplies needed: platforms or step stools

“Faith Fall”

Invite some kids onto the stage to do different levels of “faith falls.” Faith falling is falling straight back into the arms of people who are ready to catch them. Make sure that adults are in place to easily catch them.

One child will do the faith fall. Line up 6-8 other kids and adults to catch the one falling. Three to four of the catchers face the other three to four. Have them hold hands in front of them, palms up and arms bent at the elbows. Both lines then intersperse their arms like a zipper.

The level of faith is increased as platforms or step stools are provided for the kids to fall from. As children fall from higher levels, be sure to instruct them to keep their bodies very straight and stiff as they fall. Also make sure there are people surrounding the children who are ready to catch them fully.

Faith means trusting God and knowing that he will catch us or rescue us in his own way. We are to just obey him.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Show the video called *Animated Stories from the Old Testament: Abraham and Isaac*, from Nest Family Entertainment — order from: <http://www.nestfamily.com>

Application:

Discuss the video afterwards as time allows. Focus the discussion on how God tested Abraham, but he would never expect a person to sacrifice his child. That is what God alone would do. His sacrifice is the only way we can receive salvation.

Possible Questions:

- **Do you think Abraham wanted to sacrifice Isaac?** *(No.)*
- **Then why did he set about to sacrifice him?** *(Because he trusted God to provide, and God said to do it.)*
- **Do you think God would ever want somebody to follow through with a sacrifice like that?** *(No.)*
- **Who in the Bible can you think of that sacrificed his Son?** *(God.)*
- **Why?** *(To take our sins away and demonstrate how much he loves us.)*



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Allow children to talk about any ways they have obeyed God even when it was hard to do so. They can also talk about how they are blessed because they obeyed God.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Power of the Cross

- blindfold
- locked door or box
- key to unlock door or box
- bag of hard candy (individually wrapped)

Learning Game:

- platforms or step stools

Bible Presentation:

- video called *Animated Stories from the Old Testament: Abraham and Isaac*, from Nest Family Entertainment — order from: <http://www.nestfamily.com>

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