



Date: _____
Series: Pass the Promise
Summer Year 1, Lesson 14

Trust God, Even When It Doesn't Make Sense

Primary Scripture: Genesis 22:1-14 Abraham trusts God

Key Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths smooth."

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

Kids need faith to trust God even when life doesn't seem to make sense. Today's Bible event is Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac, which was also the lesson for Kingdom Quest this week. As kids explore God's word, they will see how Abraham learned to trust God more and more throughout his life. Finally he completely trusted God, even when God commanded him to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Kids, along with adults, can learn from God's faithfulness to them throughout the years so their faith increases and they can more thoroughly trust him, even when life doesn't make sense.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son as a test of his faith. He would never require that of Abraham or any person. Yet, he did require it of himself, as Jesus gave his life for us so we would be forgiven.

Jesus in us: As we receive God's sacrifice of Jesus by faith, Jesus dwells within us by the power of the Holy Spirit so we can be filled with the full measure of God's love for us. We can trust this love.

Jesus through us: Jesus lives through us as we trust God, especially in difficult times. These become opportunities to witness to his goodness in all circumstances.

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 the worship symbols forward 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.

Supplies:

- *table and chair*

Do you know what it means to trust? To trust someone means to believe what he or she says and do what he or she asks you to do, even if it is hard.

For this trust demonstration, I need a volunteer who can trust.

Have someone come forward and have him stand facing backward at the edge of the stage. Tell him that he must keep his arms crossed and body completely stiff as they fall backwards. Tell him you will catch him. Ask,

Do you trust me?

Catch him as he falls backward into your arms.

Now have the volunteer go a little higher and stand backward at the edge of a chair. Ask for three other catchers with one being an adult. Make a zipper catch line with two catchers standing side-by-side facing the two other catchers. Have catchers standing across from one another place their arms alternating to form a "zipper" so the person across has his arm between the other person's arms.

CAUTION FOR CATCHERS: All persons in the zipper line should keep their arms as even and level as possible so the weight of the volunteer is distributed evenly.

Tell the volunteer on the chair he must again cross his arms in front of him and fall back keeping his body as stiff as possible. It is very important to try to keep your body stiff and not bend at the waist. Ask the volunteer,

Do you trust me?

Repeat one more time with the volunteer standing even higher, perhaps on a table and falling back onto a zipper line of six people.

For the learning point say:

Each time this person trusted, he gained more confidence and could trust in a more difficult situation. This is much like Abraham. We have been studying how God asked him to move to a strange land and how God promised to give him a son even though Abraham was old. Each time Abraham trusted, his faith in God increased. This week we will see how God asked Abraham to do something even harder. It just didn't seem to make sense. And yet, Abraham trusted God and obeyed him.

As we worship God, we are saying to him, "We trust you God and we will follow you."

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.

In the trust/fall activity we did, the volunteer had to keep his arms crossed when he fell. When Jesus went to the cross, (extend your arms so they are outstretched) he held out his arms as he trusted God. Jesus had to trust that God knew best. Jesus had to believe that he would have to die for the sins of the world and that God would raise him up again. That was a very difficult thing to do.

Let's admit to God the times we haven't trusted him completely. As we think of these things, we can remember that Jesus *did* trust his Father. Trust in Jesus to forgive you for the things you have done wrong. The Bible says, "*By believing you receive God's approval, and by declaring your faith you are saved.*" (Romans 10:10.)

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.

Supplies:

- *a picture or sign that looks like an admission ticket with the word "Trust" on it*

Show kids the picture or sign. Place the trust ticket in the offering basket and say:

This is a trust ticket and it is a reminder that when you give to God, you are telling him you trust him for all that you have.

Have kids come forward and put their offerings in the basket.



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:

- *napkins*
- *a bucket full of Skittles or similar candy*
- *masking tape*
- *a "Trust" ticket for each child*

Mark the floor with masking tape making three squares large enough that many children might stand in each square. Label the squares with masking tape: 1, 2, and 3. The children will move from square to square according to their choices.

Hand children a napkin, then have them all sit or stand in square number one. Give them each one Skittle and tell them not to eat it. Then explain:

You can stay here and enjoy your candy or you can trust me and possibly get something more. If you want to trust me, put your Skittle back in this bucket and move with me to square number two.

For all the kids that move to square two, say:

Okay, I will give you five Skittles if you can remain completely silent and sit or stand absolutely still for one minute. If you don't think you can, I will give you back a Skittle and you can move back to the first square. But if you do move or aren't quiet, you will lose your Skittle.

Award those who met the challenge with five Skittles. Then say:

I have another challenge for you. You can stay in this square and enjoy your Skittles or you can trust me and move with me to square number three. If you trust me, move to square number three and put your five Skittles back in the bucket.

Hand a trust ticket to each child who gave back his Skittles and moved to square number three. Now say:

If you would rather have your Skittles, I will trade them back to you for the trust ticket.

Those kids who make the trade go back to the previous square.

Say to the kids remaining in the third square:

Wow! You gave up a lot and waited a long time, and it seems like all you got for your efforts is a piece of paper. I wonder how Abraham must have felt when he left his country and went with God to another country. God also said he would give Abraham a promised son. Abraham had to wait 70 some years before God gave him his son, Isaac. Abraham had to trust that God would provide. Did Abraham show trust in God?

God even asked Abraham to do something that did not make sense and was a very difficult thing to do, yet Abraham trusted God and obeyed him. We'll find out in the video what God asked Abraham to do. Take your trust tickets with you.

Have all kids come together again.

After the Bible Presentation and before the movie, award each child with a trust ticket a small handful of Skittles. Their trust has just paid off. Encourage them to share some of their fruits of faith with others around them.

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.

Here's what the Bible says in Proverbs 3:5-6 about trust. *"Trust the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths smooth."*

Let's see how Abraham trusted God in this video that shows events from the book of Genesis in the Bible.

Application:

Supplies:

- *video: Animated Stories from the Bible: Abraham and Isaac (Nest Family Entertainment, 1992)*

Show the video and then discuss the following.

What was the hardest thing for Abraham to do in trusting God? Yes, God asked Abraham to sacrifice the son he had waited for so long. This did not make sense because God told Abraham that he would give him many descendants through Isaac. Now it seemed like God was changing his mind.

Abraham trusted that God would provide. He had learned from many other occasions in his life that he could trust God. How did God provide?

God was pleased that Abraham would give him his treasured son, so God provided a sacrifice. What was caught in the thicket? Right, a ram. God had provided for the sacrifice.

What other sacrifice has God provided us for our sins? The ram is a picture or foreshadow of Jesus. The ram had his horns caught in the thicket or thorn bush. What did Jesus have on his head that is similar to this? Jesus wore a crown of thorns.

God was already teaching his people with the story of Abraham and Isaac about the ultimate sacrifice of his only Son Jesus for the sins of the world. We can trust that even when it doesn't make sense, God will provide us with the best.



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.

Invite children to finish the statement:

“One time I really prayed to God a lot about something and it took God a long time to answer. This is what happened...”

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:

Attention Grabber:

- table and chair

Offering:

- a picture or sign that looks like an admission ticket with the word “Trust” on it

Learning Game:

- napkins
- a bucket full of Skittles or similar candy
- masking tape
- a “Trust” ticket for each child

Application:

- video: Animated Stories from the Bible: *Abraham and Isaac* (Nest Family Entertainment, 1992)—order from <http://www.nestfamily.com>. Link to Children’s Bible Stories and type in “Abraham” in the search box. Order as instructed.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.