



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Pass The Promise  
Summer Year 1, Lesson 14

# Abraham Offers Isaac

**Take Home Point:** \*Lay it on the altar.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Genesis 22. Abraham offers Isaac as a sacrifice.

**Key Verse:** Romans 12:1 "Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, dedicated to God and pleasing to him."

1John 3:16a "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us." (NIV)

**We will help kids know:**

- The Bible event of Abraham offering Isaac as a sacrifice.
- God offered Jesus as a sacrifice for the sin of the world.
- We lay our lives on the altar as living sacrifices.

**We will help kids feel:**

- Awed by the love that God has for us that he would sacrifice his Son.
- Tension as they consider what they offer to the Lord as a sacrifice.

**We will help kids do:**

- See themselves as living sacrifices to God so that what they do brings glory to God.
- Offer in prayer their lives and their treasures to the Lord ("lay it on the altar").
- Receive by faith the gift of Jesus as their sacrifice that God has placed on the altar for them.

Kingdom Quest Year 1 - Lesson 14 - 1

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3-4	Kids learn that when you give things up to him, God always blesses and gives you an even better treasure.  Tell children a story about giving up their prized possessions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no supplies needed</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  6-7  8-10  11	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “The Great Nintendo DS Sacrifice”  <b>Creative Drama:</b> “Abraham Sacrifices Isaac”  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “The Great Nintendo DS Sacrifice” Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordy</li> <li>• Nintendo DS</li> <li>• a football with a cross drawn on it with masking tape</li> <li>• life-size altar that is big enough to lay a small person on (See supply list for further directions.)</li> <li>• bundle of sticks for the top of the altar. (Two of the sticks need to be proportionate sizes to make a cross.)</li> <li>• sharp fishing knife</li> <li>• costumed Abraham actor</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	5    14-18	<b><i>Lay it on the altar.</i></b> The children will lay their “hearts” on the “altar” as discussion questions are read.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• model altar for each group (a shoebox or a bucket with a cloth covering)</li> <li>• package of Starburst candies or Pixie Stix for each child</li> <li>• five heart-shaped discussion starters (appendix)</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Gather the children in a circle and pass around the prized possessions or favorite toys two children volunteered to bring. Let the kids talk about their favorite toys and most prized possessions. Then ask the following questions.

**What would you say if I told you that you had to give up your prized possession or favorite toy? Would you want to give it away to me? Probably not. Would you want to give it away to God?**

Today we are going to learn that if there is anything we prize and treasure more than God, he would want us to *\*lay it on the altar*. God wants us to give those things up to him. When we do that, God usually gives those things back to us but in a way that the thing is not more important than our relationship with him. Let me tell you a story.

A young girl named Jodi had a special necklace. This necklace was her favorite. As a matter of fact, it was her most treasured possession. But the necklace wasn't really that nice. It was just plastic pearls she had won at a pizza place for kids. The necklace was nice when she first got it but now the plastic was dirty and turning yellow.

Still Jodi wore her necklace day and night. Her parents asked her to take it off, but Jodi exclaimed, "No, it's my favorite!"

One night before Jodi went to sleep, her father sat beside her bed. He talked to her about her necklace. "Jodi, please give me your necklace. I know it is important to you, but trust me when I tell you that it is best for you to take the necklace off for a while. Give it to me. You will be glad you did."

At first Jodi argued with her father. But then her father gently persuaded her to give him the necklace. "Jodi, trust me. It will be okay. Just give me the necklace."

With sadness and a tear in her eye, Jodi took her necklace off and handed it to her father. He gave her a hug, but she did not feel much like hugging him back.

"It will be okay, dear," he said. "Just wait and see."

The next morning when Jodi awoke, she remembered her necklace. It felt strange to not have it around her neck.

As Jodi was getting ready, she noticed a small wrapped box on top of her dresser. When she picked it up she noticed a card attached to it that read, "Happy birthday, Jodi. I hope you will find this present makes it worth giving up your precious necklace."

"What could the present be?" she thought to herself. Quickly she unwrapped the box and there it was...

**Kids, what do you think was in the box?**

Allow the children time to guess and then continue with the story.

**In the box was a beautiful necklace made of *real* pearls. This gift truly was a treasure! Jodi now knew what her father was talking about. It was worth giving up her treasured possession because now she had a true treasure.**

Discuss the following with the kids.

**Do you ever make anything more important than God in your life? Would God want you to give this thing up to him?**

**When you give things up to him, God always blesses you and gives you an even better treasure. Today's Bible event is about Abraham giving up his treasure, his son, Isaac. Abraham truly shows us how to *\*lay it on the altar*.**

## **Large Group: 20-30 minutes**



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

### **Overview**

**Puppet Presentation:** "The Great Nintendo DS Sacrifice"

Gordy wrestles with the idea of giving up his most prized toy. Is it so important to him that he would not make godly choices with it?

**Creative Drama:** "Abraham Sacrifices Isaac"

The Bible Event from Genesis 22 is dramatized and foreshadows the sacrifice of Jesus.

**Puppet Presentation:** "The Great Nintendo DS Sacrifice" Conclusion

# Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

*Observation, interpretation, and application questions are printed on the paper hearts for application activity. See appendix pages 14-18.*

## Application Activity:

Each group will need a shoebox or a bucket to be used as a model altar. Inside the "altar" is a package of Starburst candies or Pixie Stix for each child.

**Starbursts remind us of the stars, and Pixie Stix remind us of the sand in God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 22:17:**

***"I will certainly bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the grains of sand on the seashore."***

Each group will have five discussion starters in the shape of a heart. As each discussion occurs, lay the heart on the altar as the Bible verse is read.

The first discussion starter is a review of today's Bible event in which Abraham laid his son on the altar. The children can use their Bibles to answer the observation and interpretation questions from Genesis 22.

When Genesis 22:17 is read in this discussion starter, hand out the candy that is inside the "altar."

**This is a picture of how God blesses us as we lay our lives on the altar.**

Throughout the discussions for hearts two through four, refer to Romans 12:1, 2 and how we can give our lives as living sacrifices to God. Read it from the Bible and discuss it. Ask questions you feel are appropriate. These are the application questions.

Remember to restate the main point, ***\*lay it on the altar*** for Jesus.

Closing Prayer:

Let the children pray to reaffirm their relationship with Jesus or to receive him as their Savior for the first time. Also allow the children to pray for others who need to meet Jesus as the one who laid his life on the altar for them.

**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.

## Large Group Presentation

### “The Great Nintendo DS Sacrifice” Puppet Presentation

Take Home Point: *\*Lay it on the altar.*

**Mr. King:** Good morning, kids! *(Shows the kids the “Pass the Promise” football.)* We continue our series “Pass the Promise” as we see how God passes his promise to send a Savior through Abraham. Today God will test Abraham and ask him to lay his most precious thing on the altar as a sacrifice.

Gordy: *(Enters with his Nintendo DS.)* Hi, Mr. King! I brought my favorite toy.

**Mr. King:** Cool, Gordy. It’s a Nintendo DS. Can I see it?

Gordy: Of course you can’t! It’s *my* toy. Some of us got to bring our favorite toys to Kingdom Quest today.

**Mr. King:** That’s because we are learning that our lives and even the things we own can be sacrifices to God.

Gordy: Now wait a minute, Mr. King. Are you asking me to lay my Nintendo DS on some kind of altar to sacrifice it?

**Mr. King:** In a way, yes. God asks that you would lay everything important to you on the altar as a sacrifice to him.

Gordy: What’s God going to do? Reach down and grab it? What would he do in heaven with a Nintendo DS?

**Mr. King:** No, that’s not exactly it. When we lay something on the altar it means we give up our control of that thing to God. We want to use that thing for God’s glory.

Gordy: I don’t get it, Mr. King. Can you give me an example?

**Mr. King:** Okay, Gordy. First I’d like for you to give me your Nintendo DS so I can lay it on the altar. It will be a symbol for all of us that we lay our whole lives on the altar for God.

Gordy: Okay, here you go. But you’re almost as bad as my little sister! She wants to play with my Nintendo DS but I won’t let her—even when I’m not playing with it.

**Mr. King:** Gordy, when you lay the Nintendo DS on the altar that means you are turning it over to God's control. You are saying, "God, use this however you want for your glory."

Gordy: How could God use a Nintendo DS?

**Mr. King:** He could use it by having you share it with someone, especially when you are not using it.

Gordy: But she's my *sister!*

**Mr. King:** That's all the more reason to share. Sisters especially need to know their big brothers care about them.

Gordy: Wow! This really is a sacrifice.

**Mr. King:** But when you lay it on the altar to God, you are telling him you trust him and he can do whatever he wants with your life and everything you own—even your Nintendo DS. When you do that, God gives you blessings back.

Gordy: What kind of blessings would I have from sharing my Nintendo DS with my sister?

**Mr. King:** I don't know. Gordy. Maybe she would share something with you.

Gordy: Like a doll? Oh yeah, that's great!

**Mr. King:** Gordy, you just need to trust God. When you lay it on the altar for him to use for his glory, you will be blessed. A Nintendo DS, as important as it is to you, would not be as hard to lay on the altar as someone's own son.

Gordy: What are you talking about?

**Mr. King:** I want to introduce you again to Abraham. He is going to tell us the story of how he had to lay his own son on the altar.

# **“Abraham Sacrifices Isaac”**

## **Creative Drama**

The following first person narrative is an example of how the dramatic presenter might tell Abraham’s story. Using a life-sized altar for a prop, have an actor dressed as Abraham reenact the Bible event. If a costumed character is not available, the large group presenter can take the role of a storyteller and tell the story with animation. In either case, the props of a knife and sticks should be used.

**Remember me? My name is Abraham. Perhaps you don’t for I am older now than when I spoke to you last. I’m over 100 years old.**

**I remember when I was 100; I was still waiting for God to fulfill the promise that I would have a son. I was ready to give up on his promise, but he came and spoke to me again. *“You will have a son, Abraham, even though your wife is 90 and you are 100. I am God and I can do anything.”***

**Wouldn’t you know it? After all those years, my wife, Sarah, and I had a son. We named him Isaac, which means “laughter.” We named him that because we laughed when we heard we would have a son at such an old age.**

**But let me tell you about the strangest announcement I heard from the Lord. He tested me, you see. God said, *“Take your son, Isaac, and go to the mount of Moriah. Lay your son on the altar and burn him as a sacrifice to me.”***

**Can you imagine the thoughts that went through my mind? I loved my son more than life itself. But I had learned to trust God. After all, he had kept his promises to me. If he wanted me to do something, I would do it. I knew one way or the other God would give my son back to me. I even knew God could raise him from the dead if he wanted.**

**Early in the morning I cut wood for the sacrifice, saddled my donkey, called for my servants, and left for Mt. Moriah with my son, Isaac. For three days we traveled. When we arrived I told my servants, “Wait here. The boy and I will go ahead and worship the Lord. Then we will return.”**

**I gave the wood to Isaac. In his own hands he carried the wood for the fire and a knife. We walked up the mountain together knowing we would worship the Lord.**

**Isaac looked at me as he whispered, “Father.”**

**“Yes, my son,” I answered.**

**“Here is the wood but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?” Isaac asked.**

**I sighed, “God will provide it, my son.”**

**When we came to the place, I built an altar. On the altar I laid the wood. Then I took my son, tied him up, and laid him on the wood.**

**This made no sense to me. My heart was aching for my son, Isaac. I knew I must give him up to the Lord for I knew the Lord could be trusted.**

**I took the knife and raised it over my head. Just as I was about to thrust it, the Lord called out, “*Abraham! Abraham!*”**

**“Here I am!” I cried.**

**“*Enough,*” God said. “*Do not touch the boy. I know that you now fear God and you have not withheld your own son from me.*”**



**Then I heard a rustling noise behind me. Caught by its horns in a thicket was a ram. I took the ram and I slew it. I sacrificed the ram instead of my son. God provided the sacrifice that day.**

**Isaac and I returned from the mountain. Though God had asked me to lay my own son on the altar, God would ask no other man to sacrifice his own son.**

**Thousands of years later, the promise of a Savior came true. The Savior came through my descendents and he was the Son of God. He carried the wood of the cross to a place of sacrifice.**

**What God would ask no man to do, he would do. God sacrificed his own Son to pay for our sins. Jesus willingly died in our place.**



**God raised Jesus from the dead. Through Jesus, God gave the blessings of forgiveness and everlasting life to all who would believe in him.**

**So let me leave you with this altar and a memory. Remember how God asked me to lay my son on the altar but then gave him back to me? Always remember how God laid *his* Son on the altar and gave him to us all. God passed the promise of Jesus to me. So now I pass the promise to you!**

## **“The Great Nintendo DS Sacrifice”**

### Puppet Presentation Conclusion

**Mr. King:** **Well Gordy, what did you think?** (*Shows the audience the “Pass the Promise” football.*) **Abraham offering to sacrifice his only son is a foreshadowing of God’s sacrifice of *his* only own Son, Jesus. The promise of a Savior was passed through Abraham.**

Gordy: Wow! Abraham was willing to put his son on the altar. And that’s *much* more important than a Nintendo DS.

**Mr. King:** **Yes, but then God gave Abraham’s son, Isaac, back to him. He provided another sacrifice instead, a ram.**

Gordy: I guess I could give up whatever God wanted me to give up, couldn’t I?

**Mr. King:** **I think you could, Gordy, especially since you know God gave up his own Son, not on an altar, but on the cross. Since God gave up Jesus, we can be forgiven and be friends with God.**

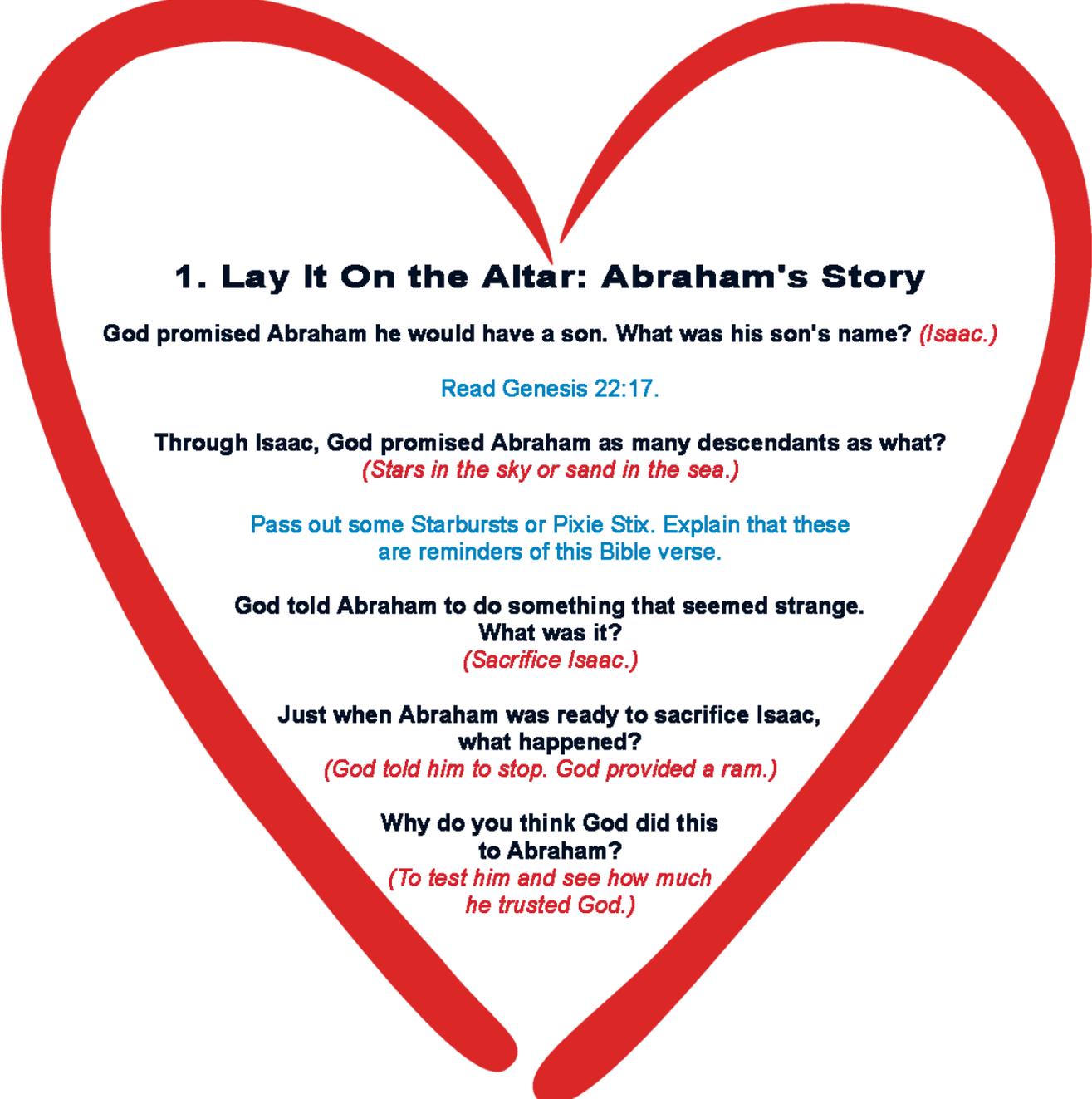
Gordy: Mr. King, can I have my Nintendo DS back now?

**Mr. King:** **But I thought you would want to leave it on the altar.**

Gordy: I do, but I think what God really wants me to do is share it with my sister. I’ll go do that now.

**Mr. King:** **Fantastic, Gordy. Will you close us with prayer?**

Gordy: Dear God, thank you that you *\*laid it all on the altar* when you gave us your Son, Jesus. You also gave us an example of how Abraham trusted you enough to put his own son on the altar. If we have something that is so important to us that it gets in the way of our friendship with you, help us to lay it on the altar, too. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



## **1. Lay It On the Altar: Abraham's Story**

**God promised Abraham he would have a son. What was his son's name? (*Isaac.*)**

**Read Genesis 22:17.**

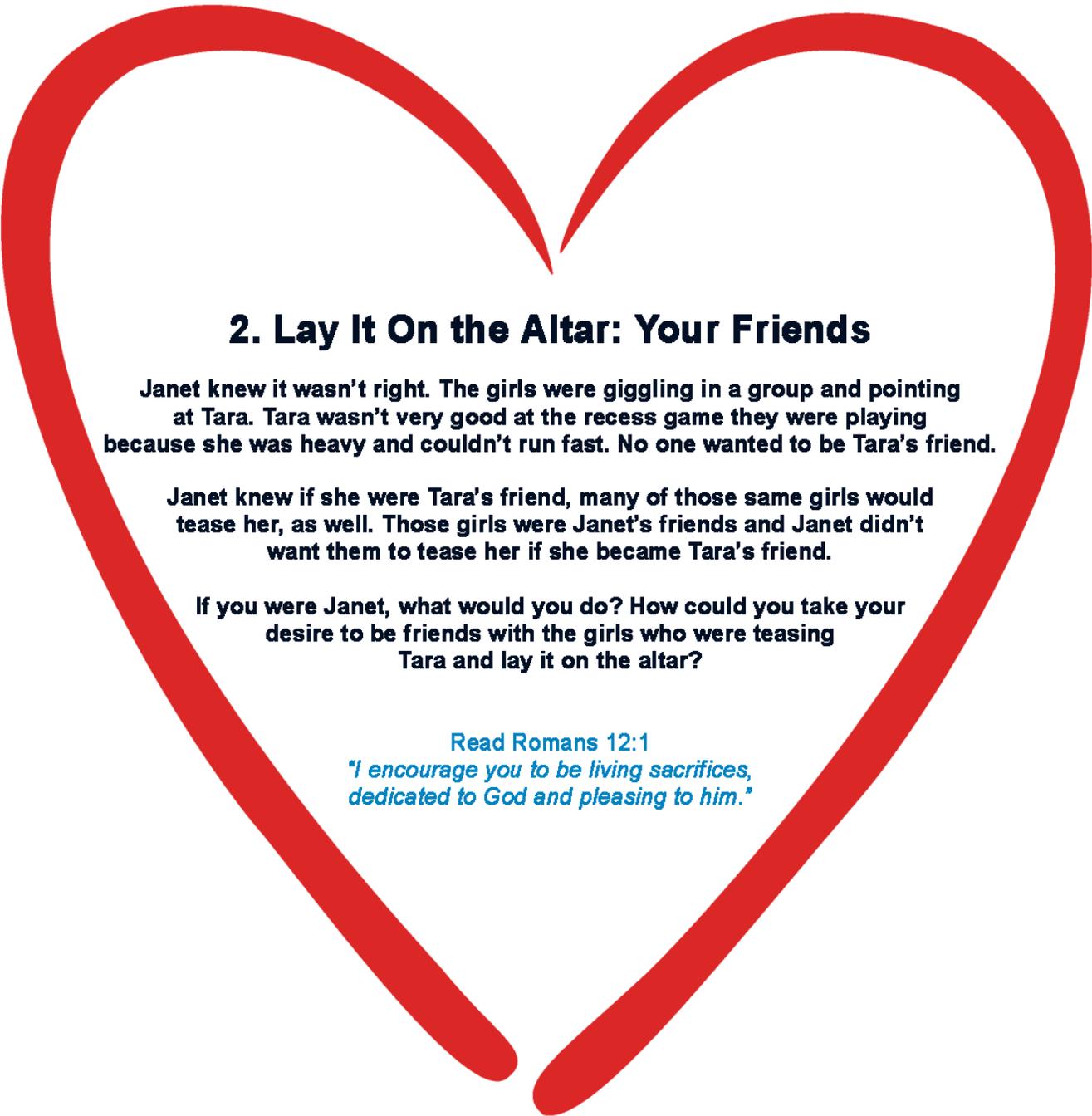
**Through Isaac, God promised Abraham as many descendants as what?  
(*Stars in the sky or sand in the sea.*)**

**Pass out some Starbursts or Pixie Stix. Explain that these  
are reminders of this Bible verse.**

**God told Abraham to do something that seemed strange.  
What was it?  
(*Sacrifice Isaac.*)**

**Just when Abraham was ready to sacrifice Isaac,  
what happened?  
(*God told him to stop. God provided a ram.*)**

**Why do you think God did this  
to Abraham?  
(*To test him and see how much  
he trusted God.*)**



## **2. Lay It On the Altar: Your Friends**

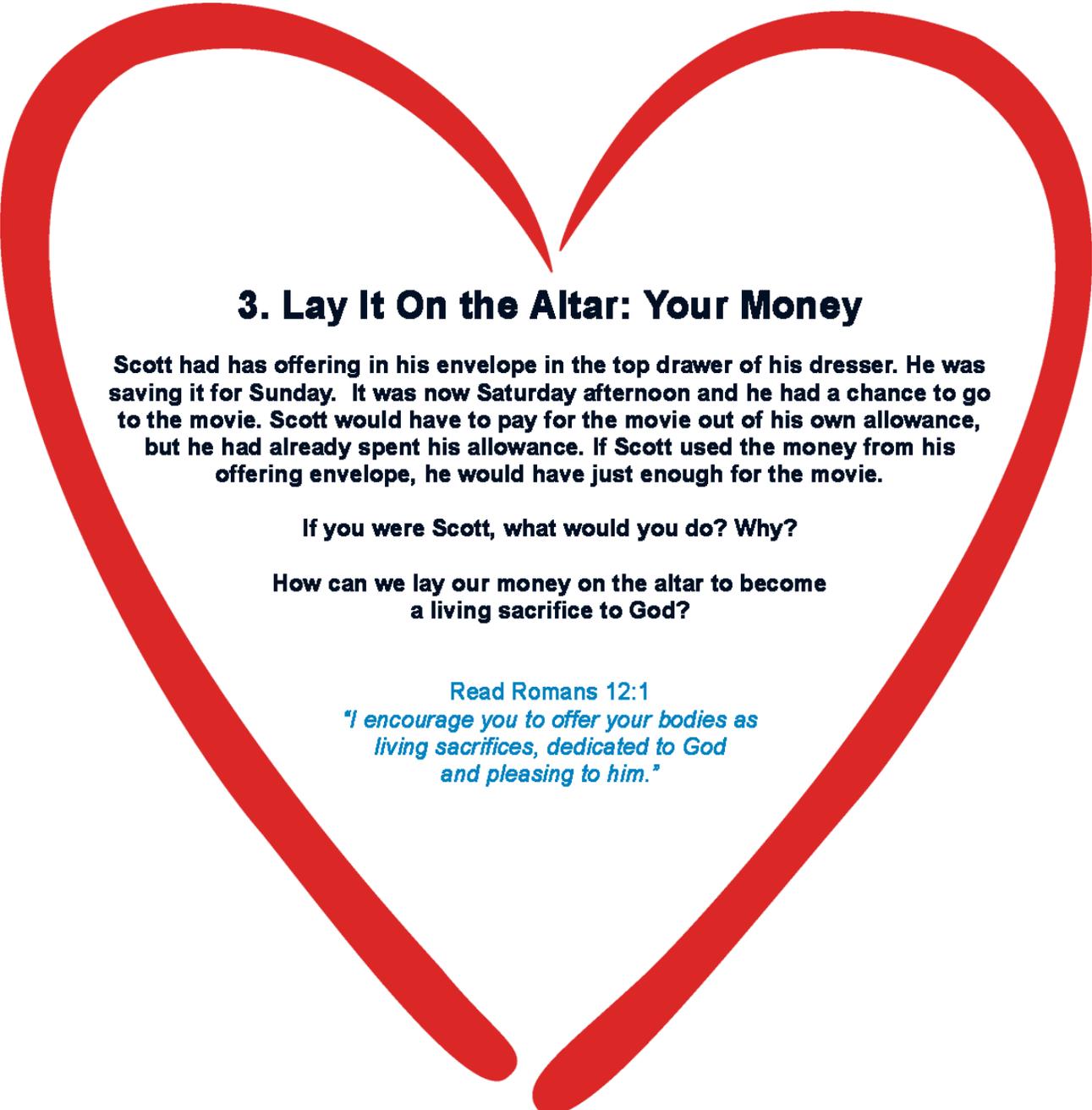
**Janet knew it wasn't right. The girls were giggling in a group and pointing at Tara. Tara wasn't very good at the recess game they were playing because she was heavy and couldn't run fast. No one wanted to be Tara's friend.**

**Janet knew if she were Tara's friend, many of those same girls would tease her, as well. Those girls were Janet's friends and Janet didn't want them to tease her if she became Tara's friend.**

**If you were Janet, what would you do? How could you take your desire to be friends with the girls who were teasing Tara and lay it on the altar?**

**Read Romans 12:1**

*"I encourage you to be living sacrifices,  
dedicated to God and pleasing to him."*



### **3. Lay It On the Altar: Your Money**

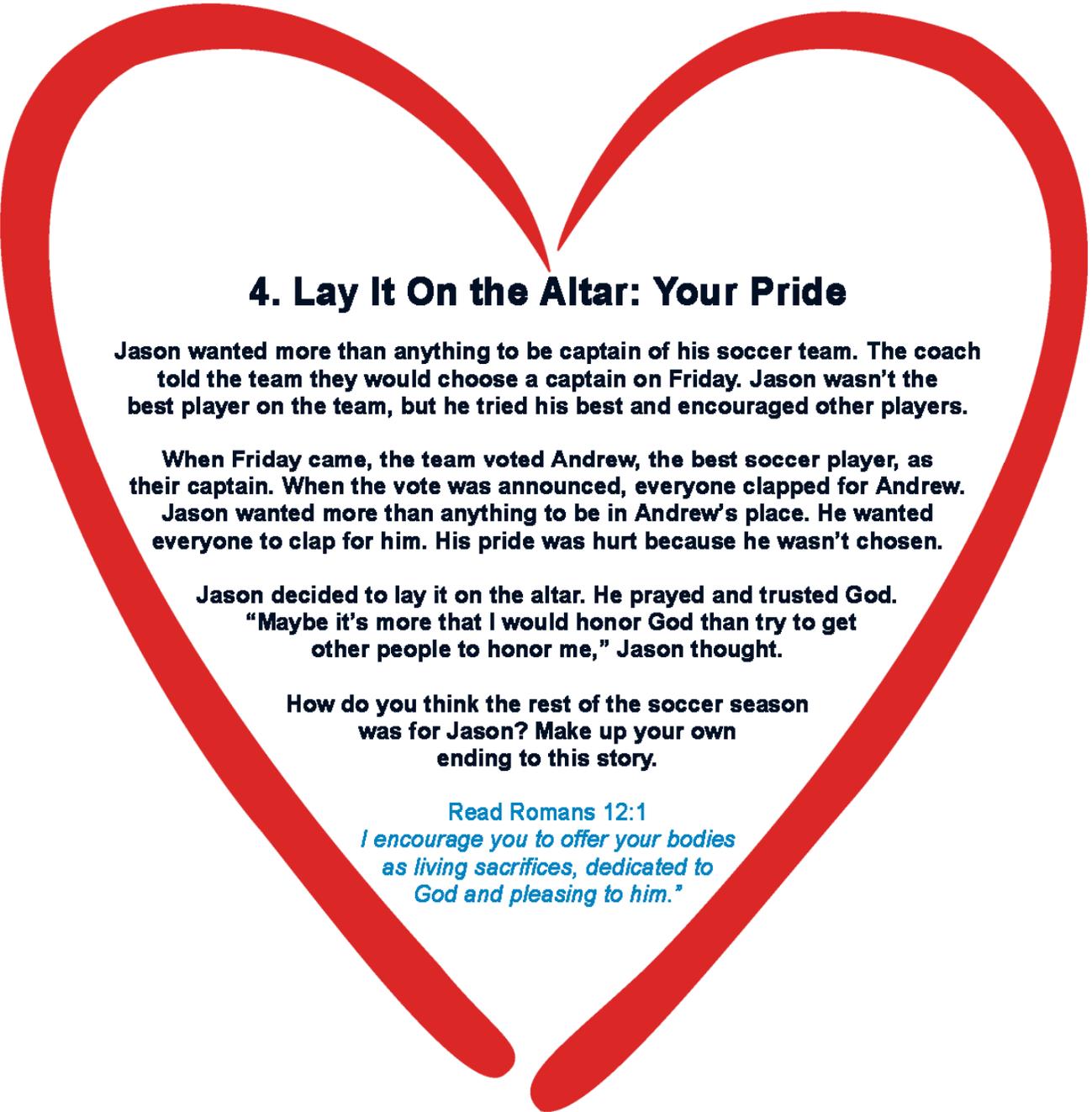
**Scott had his offering in his envelope in the top drawer of his dresser. He was saving it for Sunday. It was now Saturday afternoon and he had a chance to go to the movie. Scott would have to pay for the movie out of his own allowance, but he had already spent his allowance. If Scott used the money from his offering envelope, he would have just enough for the movie.**

**If you were Scott, what would you do? Why?**

**How can we lay our money on the altar to become  
a living sacrifice to God?**

**Read Romans 12:1**

***"I encourage you to offer your bodies as  
living sacrifices, dedicated to God  
and pleasing to him."***



## **4. Lay It On the Altar: Your Pride**

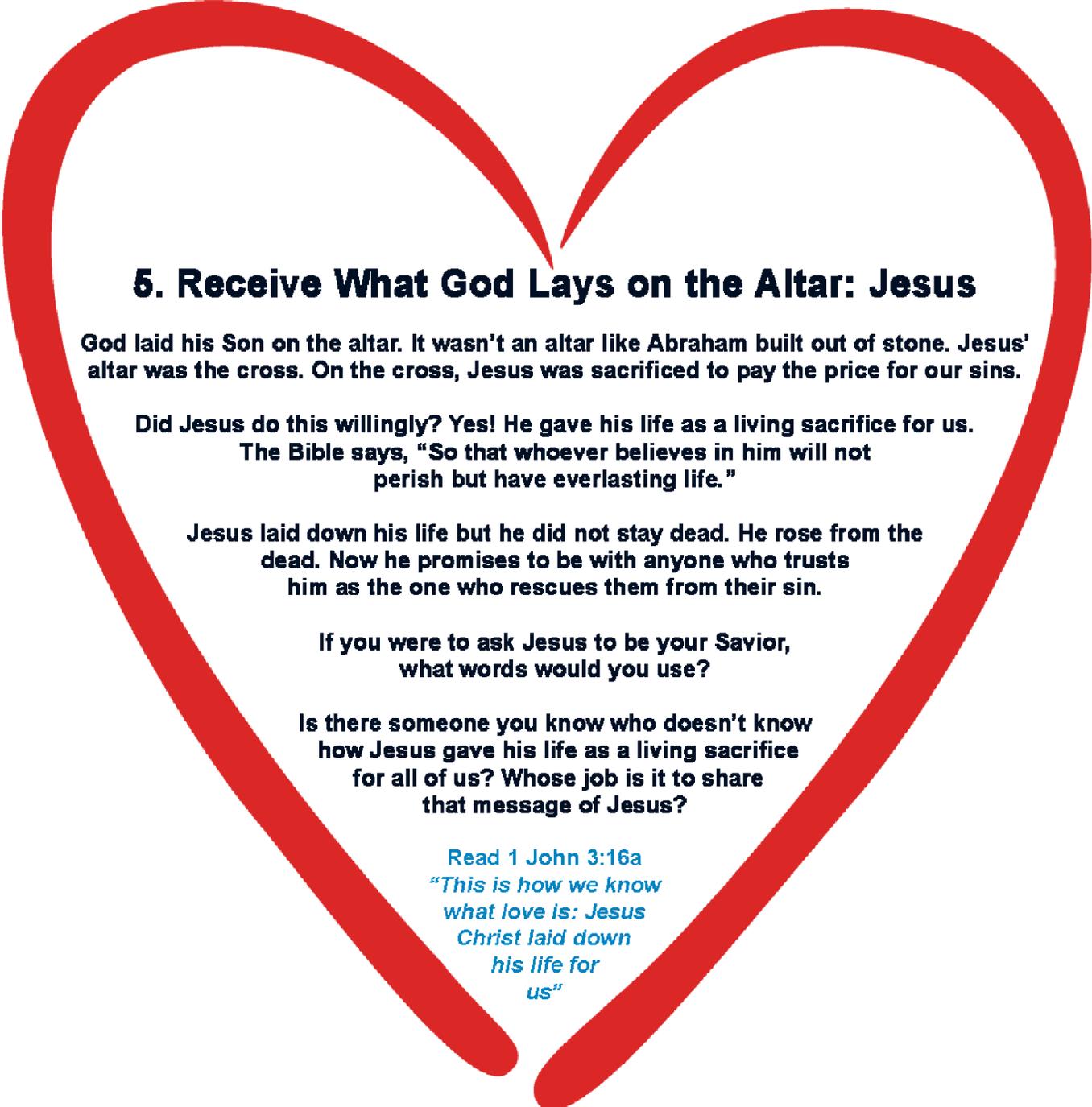
**Jason wanted more than anything to be captain of his soccer team. The coach told the team they would choose a captain on Friday. Jason wasn't the best player on the team, but he tried his best and encouraged other players.**

**When Friday came, the team voted Andrew, the best soccer player, as their captain. When the vote was announced, everyone clapped for Andrew. Jason wanted more than anything to be in Andrew's place. He wanted everyone to clap for him. His pride was hurt because he wasn't chosen.**

**Jason decided to lay it on the altar. He prayed and trusted God.  
"Maybe it's more that I would honor God than try to get other people to honor me," Jason thought.**

**How do you think the rest of the soccer season was for Jason? Make up your own ending to this story.**

**Read Romans 12:1  
*I encourage you to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, dedicated to God and pleasing to him.***



## **5. Receive What God Lays on the Altar: Jesus**

**God laid his Son on the altar. It wasn't an altar like Abraham built out of stone. Jesus' altar was the cross. On the cross, Jesus was sacrificed to pay the price for our sins.**

**Did Jesus do this willingly? Yes! He gave his life as a living sacrifice for us. The Bible says, "So that whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life."**

**Jesus laid down his life but he did not stay dead. He rose from the dead. Now he promises to be with anyone who trusts him as the one who rescues them from their sin.**

**If you were to ask Jesus to be your Savior, what words would you use?**

**Is there someone you know who doesn't know how Jesus gave his life as a living sacrifice for all of us? Whose job is it to share that message of Jesus?**

*Read 1 John 3:16a  
"This is how we know  
what love is: Jesus  
Christ laid down  
his life for  
us"*