

God's Calling in the Old Testament
Lesson Nine
GOD CALLED ISAAC (Gen. 21:1-8; 22:1-18)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see the marvelous obedience of Isaac who, like Christ, was offered up as a sacrifice by his own father. This record of Isaac shows us a picture of how God the Father offered up His only begotten Son as a sacrifice, and how Christ, being obedient unto death, was raised up again in resurrection

Memory Verse:

“By faith, Abraham, being tested, offered up Isaac;... counting that God was able to raise men even from the dead” (Hebrews 11:17a, 19a)

Facts to Teach:

1. Abraham was one hundred years old when his wife Sarah gave birth to their son, Isaac. The birth of Isaac was a miracle from God. God promised Abraham that he would have many descendants when He first called him. Now, twenty-five years later, God began the fulfillment of His promise by the birth of Isaac.
2. Although Abraham grew up as an idol-worshipper and was later called when the God of glory appeared to him, his son, Isaac, grew up in a family that believed in and loved the true and living God. In this same way the children of those who believe in the Lord are blessed to also believe in Him at an early age.
3. Isaac, being Abraham's only son born through Sarah, was especially precious to him. Perhaps even more precious to him than God Himself, the One who had given Isaac to Abraham.
4. One day God tested Abraham in a way no other human being has ever been tested. God tested Abraham's love and obedience to Him by telling Abraham to offer his only son, Isaac, back to Him as a burnt offering. God's gift to Abraham, Isaac, must not be dearer to him than the Giver, God.
5. Because of Abraham's completely unselfish love toward God and Isaac's absolute obedience to his father, we can see a beautiful picture of how God also would one day give up His only begotten Son as a sacrifice for the whole world.
 - a. Isaac was Abraham's only son, his beloved (Gen. 22:2; John 3:16).
 - b. Isaac obeyed his father (Gen. 22:5-9; Matt. 26:39).
 - c. Isaac bore the wood for his sacrifice even as Christ bore the cross (Gen. 22:6; John 19:17).
 - d. Isaac was obedient “even unto death,” although he did not literally die (Gen. 22:9; Phil. 2:8)
 - e. Isaac was “raised from the dead” by God (in a figure) (Gen. 22:13; Acts 2:24)

6. Because of Abraham's absolute faith in God's promise that Isaac would one day have children (Gen. 17:19), he was able to offer up Isaac back to God. Abraham believed that if God required Isaac to die as a sacrifice, then He would also raise him up from the dead in order to fulfill His promise.