

My Provider

Objective: The students will learn that Abraham trusted God even though he didn't understand everything. (Remember, often Japanese think they have to understand everything before they can believe. We can trust God even when we don't understand everything.) We will also 'set the stage' for next week's Bible time.

Link:

Today's Bible time is about a test. We have all taken many tests. Do you remember taking a very hard (difficult) test? How did you feel before the test? Did you pass?

Background:

Abraham lived about 4000 years ago. He believed in God. He had strong faith.

Abraham did not have any children until he was very old. Finally he had one son, a boy named Isaac. But God promised that he would have many descendants. Abraham was looking forward to his grandchildren.

One day, God wanted to test Abraham's faith. God gave Abraham a very hard test. Today we will read about that test.

Questions:

- What was the test? (to kill his only son, Isaac, whom he loved)
- What did Abraham do? (the basic answer: he obeyed God. Draw as many details as possible from the students, reviewing the story as you go.)

Read: Genesis 22: 1-6

Answer the questions

Review the story.

Points:

- God was very clear. He told Abraham to go to Moriah and kill his son. He told Abraham that He would show him a specific mountain.
- Abraham got up early to obey.
- Abraham made many preparations.
 - who would go – Isaac and two servants.
 - He saddled his donkey. He had servants, but he saddled the donkey himself. Why? What was he feeling that morning? (he was very upset in his heart. He probably saddled his donkey himself to have something to do so he wouldn't think too much and become too sad.)
 - He cut the wood. Can you imagine cutting wood, knowing that you were going to burn up your son? Why would Abraham do this? (only because he trusted God.)

- Abraham led the way.
- How many days did it take to go to the land of Moriah? (three days) Can you imagine walking for three days, knowing that you were going to kill your only son? Abraham had three days and nights to think about it and pray about it. He had three days and nights to change his mind. Did he change his mind? (no, he and Isaac left the servants and went to worship God.)

Go on.

This story is amazing and scary. It shows that God is strict with his children. God gives hard tests. When I read this, I am afraid of getting a hard test from God. I am also afraid of failing that test.

Let's look at verse 5 again. Verse 5 shows Abraham's strong faith. (Read it to them, starting "Abraham said to his servants...")

- What did Abraham tell the servants to do? (stay with the donkey)
- Who was going over there to worship? (my son and I)
- What was Abraham going to do to worship – what was God's test? (to kill his son burn him up)
- But who does Abraham say will come back? (we will)

God had promised Abraham many descendants. Isaac was Abraham's only child. Abraham trusted God to keep His promise. Abraham did not understand what God would do, but his faith in God was very strong. Abraham believed that even if he killed his son, God would give his son back to him! He was going to kill his son, but he said that "we will come back." This is a very great example to me of faith. Abraham's example encourages me to trust God even when I don't understand everything.

Some of you might want to believe in the God of the Bible. But you don't understand everything yet. Please follow Abraham's example. God is too wonderful for us to understand everything about Him.

Next week we will finish this story. Will Abraham kill his son? Will God raise Isaac from the dead? We will find out next week.