



Leader Guide

Isaac

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Story of God- Leader Info

Big Idea:

Abraham showed great faith by offering his son Isaac. Because Abraham was willing to give up his son for God, God said his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky.

Scripture:

Genesis 22

Memory Verse:

God himself will provide.

Genesis 22:8

Kids' City is changing up the lessons a little bit! We are starting on a journey together to understand the Story of God, and grow closer to Him and know Him better along the way! The lessons each week will now be chronological stories from the Bible told to the kids orally in a Story-formed way.

Stories are the most powerful form of communication we have. Stories speak to the mind, the body, and the emotions —our spirits. In a story, we can identify with situations we have never been in. Every culture and society of people that have ever existed has been this way. We are all storytellers and we all LOVE stories.

Jesus was a GREAT storyteller!

The disciples came up and asked, “Why do you tell stories?” Jesus replied, “You’ve been given insight into God’s kingdom. You know how it works. Not everybody has this gift, this insight; it hasn’t been given to them. Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, the insights and understanding flow freely. But if there is no readiness, any trace of receptivity soon disappears. That’s why I tell stories: to create readiness, to nudge the people toward receptive insight.”
Matthew 13:10-13 (The Message)

Goals of Telling the Story

-To understand, experience, and intersect with God’s story.

-To become a ‘story-formed’ kids and people whose lives are daily shaped by the truths of the Story.

-To make disciples of Jesus who make disciples.

-To see and experience God’s “Redemptive Arc” throughout history as found in the Bible—seeing the connection between all of the stories— and seeing the Bible as one big story.

-To be moved by a Story that points to a God who constantly pursues us and desires to know us.

-To see the intersection of ours’ and the kids’ stories with God’s Story.

-To understand our identity differently in light of God’s story, who he is, and who he created us to be.

-To “live in the gospel”, seeing the world differently, seeking to further God’s Kingdom - to live missionally.

-To become excited about the biblical narratives, reading and learning more about them in the Bible.

-To learn to retell these stories and help others to see how they can find themselves in God’s story.

Introduction in Small Groups

Intro

Questions for the Kids about their week and to get them thinking about the lesson they will be going over.

1. What happened this past week that was really awesome?
2. What happened this past week that was a bummer?
3. What was your favorite part about Christmas?
4. What are you most excited about for the upcoming year?

Expected Behaviors

Go over the Expected Behaviors for the kids while they are in small group before Large Group begins.

1. Be respectful of others
2. Only one student speaks at a time
3. Listen quietly when others are speaking
4. Keep hands and feet to yourself
5. Follow the directions given by your leaders

Large Group

Game

Have the kids play a game of Simon says for the first few minutes to get some of their energy out.

Prayer, Offering, and Communion

Pray for the kids as they begin a new lesson, and ask the kids if they have anything specifically they would like to pray about! Pray for their requests during the week. Collect the offering if the kids have any, after the prayer. For the kids that have been baptized they can take communion at this time. Explain to the children that communion is a time for us to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross and thank Him for all He has done for us!

Review the Story from Last Week

Review the stories from the Story of God we covered before the Christmas series a bit, focusing more on the most recent story, Covenant.

What happened with Cain and Abel?

What did we learn about God and people in from the flood story?

What did Abraham and Sarah learn about God by having Isaac?

Before beginning, remind them what “descendants” means.

Tell the Story (Don't just read it—know it and bring it to life!)

You won't believe what happened next...

Some time later God tested Abraham. He called out to him, "Abraham!"

"Yes, I am listening!" he replied.

God said, "I want you to take your son Isaac who you love up to the top of the mountain and offer him as a sacrifice."

The next morning Abraham got up early, saddled up his donkey, and chopped some wood for the offering. After everything was ready, Abraham and his son Isaac took two of their servants and set out for the mountain. About three days into their journey, they saw the mountain in the distance. Abraham told his servants, "Stay here. Isaac and I are going up the mountain to worship, then we will come right back."

Abraham took the knife and the fire from the servants and he placed the wood for the sacrifice on Isaac's shoulders. As they were walking up the mountain, Isaac became curious and asked, "Father, we have the wood and the fire, but where is the lamb we are going to sacrifice?" Abraham told him, "God himself will provide a lamb."

When they arrived at the top of the mountain, they built an altar and placed the wood on it. Then Abraham tied Isaac up and laid him on the altar over the wood. Then he took the knife and lifted it up to kill his son as a sacrifice to God. At that moment the Angel of God shouted to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Yes, I'm listening!" he replied.

The Angel said, "Put down the knife. Do not hurt your son. It's clear that you trust me because you did not hesitate to give me what you love the most." Then Abraham looked behind him and saw a ram with his horns caught in a bush. He caught the ram and offered it to God in place of his son. So Abraham named that place at the top of the mountain "God Will Provide".

Then the Angel of God spoke to Abraham again telling him, "God wants to tell you: because you have not refused to give me your son, I will bless you greatly! Your family will multiply into millions—like the stars in the sky and the sand on the beaches! Your descendants will defeat their enemies. The entire earth will be blessed through your family because you chose to obey me."

Then Abraham and Isaac went down the mountain, met up with their servants, and returned home.

Small Groups

Retell the Story

This may seem redundant, but it is very effective in helping your kids remember and own the story. You will want to help them retell the story by giving them leading questions like: So, where did the story begin? What happened next? What did Abraham do? What didn't Abraham do? What did the Angel tell Abraham at the end?

Dialogue

Remember **this is a dialogue, not a quiz**. The questions are a good start to draw out observations about the story, and the "answers" are just there to help you guide kids toward some key ideas.

1. How did Abraham feel about his son Isaac?

Abraham loved his son.

2. How did God and Abraham get along?

Abraham had a special relationship with God—chosen as the blessing.

Abraham had faith that God would keep his promise.

Abraham listened to God (and his angel).

3. What did Abraham say to his servants?

4. What does this story show us about Abraham?

5. What does this story show us about Isaac?

Isaac trusted his father.

6. What was Abraham risking in order to obey God in this story?

The promise of God blessing the entire earth through his descendants.

7. Where have we seen sacrifice before in the stories? Why did people do this? What is God teaching through these sacrifices?

God providing clothing from animal skins for Adam and Eve.

Cain and Abel, Noah's sacrifice to show thankfulness to God and show him as the provider.

Noah: after the flood God made it clear that life is in the blood.

Isaac: God provided an animal in place of Isaac—life for life.

8. Would you obey God if he asked you to do this?

9. What does this story teach us about God?

He provides for his people.

He tests people's faith.

He desires to bless us.

He keeps his promises.

Application (Optional questions that may help apply the story)

10. What questions do you have about the story?

11. What from this story will you remember the most?

12. How does this story make a difference in your life?

13. What is the greatest gift you've ever given someone? ...ever received?

14. What is something one of your family members has done for you that really made a difference in your life?

Activity

Have the kids work on a word search that has some key words from the story and also color on one of the coloring sheets.

Extra Time Activities

If there is extra time, have the kids look up the passages from the story and read them out loud.