

ABRAHAM AND ISAAC

THIS STORY IS FOUND IN GENESIS 22



Abraham was one of the most famous men in the Bible. You see, God asked him to leave his fancy home in the city to ride around on a smelly camel, live in a tent, and cook over a smoky campfire. But there's more to the story.

God did not immediately tell Abraham where He wanted him to go or where he would live. He just told him He would lead him to a new country so that he could start his own tribe, who would become God's chosen people. It sounds like a wild goose chase, but Abraham had faith in God, so he obeyed.

But there was another problem. Abraham had no kids. In those days, if you had no kids, your family had no future because when you died, everyone would eventually forget about you. And that's where God stepped into the picture again. He had promised Abraham and his wife, Sarah, they would have a baby boy, but after waiting and waiting for twenty-five years, they still had no son.

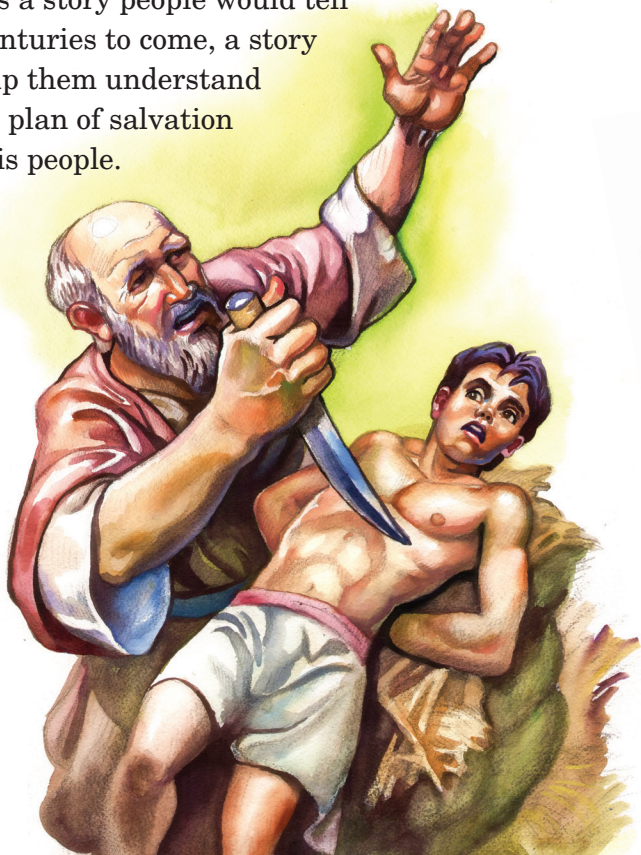
Then, when Abraham and Sarah had almost given up hope, the baby was born. His birth was a surprise for everyone because by now Abraham was a hundred years old, and Sarah was ninety. It was a miracle!

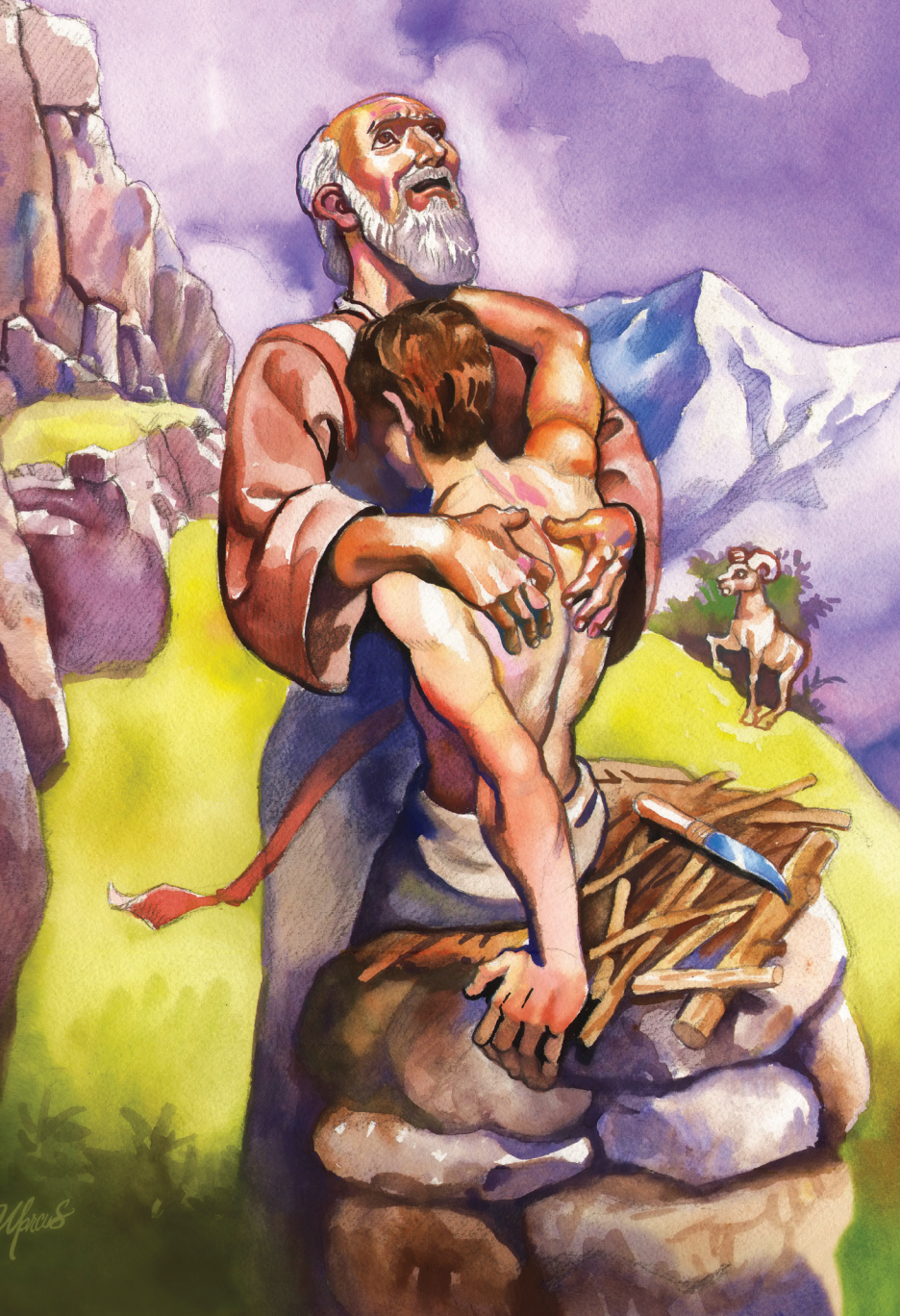
They named the little boy Isaac, and everybody loved him. He probably did all the things boys love to do with their daddies, such as fishing, kicking a ball around, and listening to stories around the campfire.

And then one day when Isaac was a teenager, God spoke to Abraham and asked him to do a very strange thing. “Take Isaac to Mount Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice,” He said.

A sacrifice? That seemed like a horrible thing to do. Lots of pagan nations at the time offered human sacrifices, but God had never asked His people to do anything like that. However, He had a special lesson for Abraham to learn—and for the angels who were watching to see whether Abraham would obey.

It was a story people would tell for centuries to come, a story to help them understand God’s plan of salvation for His people.






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And did Abraham obey God? Absolutely. It was the hardest thing any father had ever been asked to do, but Abraham knew God's voice. Without delay, he took Isaac on a three-day journey to a special place called Mount Moriah.

Now, Isaac knew nothing of his father's plans. He just thought he and his father were going on a pilgrimage to offer a lamb as a sacrifice to worship the God of heaven. However, as they were walking up that last hill to the top of the mountain, Isaac said, "Father, we have brought a bundle of wood and some coals of fire for the sacrifice, but where is the lamb?"





Abraham was heartbroken. “God will provide a lamb for the sacrifice,” he said with tears in his eyes.

When they got to the top of the mountain, Abraham finally told Isaac everything, and to his surprise, Isaac didn’t argue. “I trust you,” he must have said to his father. “God wouldn’t ask us to do this if it wasn’t important.”

And so Abraham put the wood on the altar, laid Isaac on the wood, and gave his son a final hug. Then with shaking hands and a prayer to God, he raised the knife to heaven—but that was as far as he got. At that moment, God said, “Stop! You don’t have to go through with this. It was a test, and you have passed it. There is no doubt in My mind that you love Me and will obey all My commandments.”

Abraham was so relieved! His prayer had been answered, and Isaac could live after all. And wouldn’t you know it? Just at that moment, Abraham noticed a ram caught in the thorny bushes nearby. His words that God would provide a lamb for the sacrifice had come true.

So they took the ram and offered it to God in worship. This showed they believed God would one day send Jesus to die for the sins of the world on Calvary. Praise God for the promise!