

The Sacrifice

Patriarchs 1
Lesson 4

Lesson Objectives

- The students will describe three ways in which Abraham's faith produced obedience.
- The students will give two examples of how God provides for us.
- The students will explain one way in which they can be sacrificial.

Lesson Text

Genesis 22

Scripture Memory Verse

"See, he is puffed up;
his desires are not upright—
but the righteous will live
by his faith—"

Habakkuk 2:4

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Count Your Blessings

Welcome and Singing

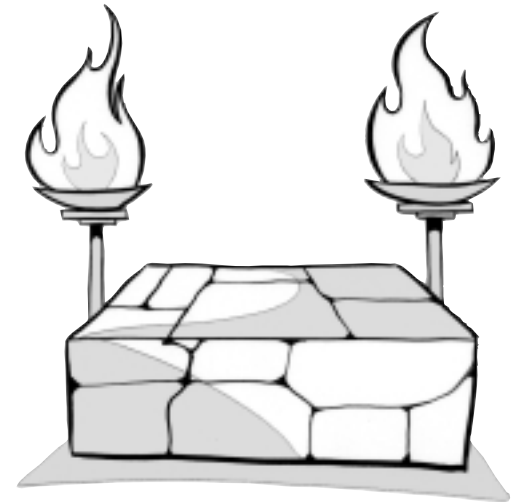
Centers:

Bible Story: The Test

Craft: Thank-You Notes

Scripture Memory: Mixed-up
Memory Verse

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



GENERATION
next

3rd and 4th Grades

The Sacrifice

Count Your Blessings

The students will compose a collage of ways in which God provides for them.

Materials

For each student:

- 1 piece of colored construction paper, 9" x 12"
- magazines with pictures of games, food, clothing, etc.
- scissors
- 1 glue stick
- crayons or markers

Preparation

1. Make a collage to show the students as a model.
2. Cut some pictures out of the magazine to help the students get started.

Instructions

1. As the students arrive, show them your collage. Tell them that they are going to make a collage of blessings—things that make them happy and things for which they are thankful to God. Explain why you chose the items on your collage.

2. Distribute the construction paper, magazines, scissors, glue sticks and crayons. Encourage the students to fill their pages with pictures of blessings from their lives. If they cannot find pictures of things that make them happy, encourage them to draw pictures or write the words instead.
3. Circulate among the students to assist with spelling.
4. Be sure that the students write "My Blessings" and their names on their collages.
5. Collect all of the collages and give them to the craft teacher to be used later in the craft center.

Teacher Tips

- Note the students' registration numbers on the collages for quick reference in the craft center.

The Sacrifice

The Test

The students will identify how Abraham and Isaac's faith produced amazing obedience.

Materials

For each student:

- pencil

For the teacher:

- large writing surface
- piece of firewood
- 5 to 10 medium stones (the size of dinner rolls)
- 1 piece of rope, 5' to 10' long

Reproducible Pages

- Page A, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

1. Practice presenting the story.
2. On the large writing surface, write the word "Test" at the top.

Setting the Stage

Tell the students that they are going to hear one of the most amazing stories of faith and obedience in the Bible. It is a story from Genesis 22 and it begins with a test. Point to the word "Test" written on the large surface. Ask the students: *What is a test?* Record their responses. Tell the students: *A teacher gives a test to see how well we know something. I am sure that you all take spelling tests in school. Your teachers want to see how well you know how to spell your words. The tests help them to see in what ways you need to improve. Sometimes God gives us tests, too. He wants to see how much we love him and how much we believe in him. Today, you are going to hear about a test that God gave to Abraham. At the end of the story, you will decide how Abraham did on his test and give him a grade.*

Telling the Story

Have your Bible open to Genesis 22. Read from v. 1, "*Some time later God tested Abraham.*" Ask the students: *Who tested Abraham?* (God) Explain that even God has to give us tests sometimes. Tell them to listen very carefully as you tell the story of the test that God gave to Abraham:

In Abraham's day, people worshipped God by building altars from stones and by making burnt offerings. Bring out the stones and firewood. Place the firewood on the stones. An offering was a gift that people gave to God. An offering was always something valuable. In Abraham's day, people offered their animals because animals were very valuable to them. When people made an offering to God it was called a "sacrifice" because they were giving it to God, and they would not get it back.

God asked Abraham to give Isaac as an offering. God gave Abraham a son and then God asked Abraham to give Isaac back to him. Abraham knew that Isaac was a special gift from God. Abraham loved his son Isaac very much. Do you think that it would have been hard for Abraham to give Isaac back to God? That was the test that God gave to Abraham. It was a test of his faith! Let's look at Abraham's answer.

Abraham got up early the next day and took the wood and the other things that he would need. He took two servants and his son Isaac. Together they went to the mountain that God would show them. Along the way, Isaac realized that there was no animal with them for the offering. Isaac knew that his father always had an animal when he worshipped on the mountain. He asked his father, "Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham told Isaac that God would provide the lamb for the offering.

When they came to the mountain, Abraham built the altar. Point to the stones and wood. Bring out the rope. Then he took the rope and wrapped it around Isaac and put Isaac on the altar. He was just

The Sacrifice

about to offer Isaac when an angel called out to Abraham. "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

Then the Bible says: "Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide." Later on, the angel spoke to Abraham again. The angel said that God was going to bless Abraham and make him into a great nation because Abraham obeyed God.

The Sacrifice Today

Abraham had amazing faith! He was willing to give his only son to God. God saw Abraham's faith and he gave Isaac back to Abraham. Did you know that God did the same thing with Jesus? Listen to what the Bible says in John 3:16,

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

The Bible says that God gave his one and only son. That means that God was willing to sacrifice Jesus—and Jesus was willing to die—so that we could have a relationship with God. So you see, Abraham and God were both faithful fathers, and Isaac and Jesus were both obedient sons.

Sharing with Others

Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page A to the students. Remind the students of the test that God gave Abraham. Tell the students to think about Abraham's faith and obedience and then give a grade. When they have finished, ask the students to briefly share the grade they gave and why.

Ask the students to think of someone they know who is feeling sad. Encourage them to tell that person about God's love for them! Encourage them to invite that person to come with them to church. Remind them that God wants us to tell others about Jesus so that they can have a relationship with him. Close with a prayer.

Teacher Tips

- Do not focus on the violent aspects of sacrifice and burnt offerings. Students at this age can be easily distracted with details of this kind. Focus their attention on the amazing faith and obedience that both Abraham and Isaac showed.

Abraham's Report Card	
Faith	Obedience



C

R

A

F

T

The Sacrifice

Thank-You Notes

The students will write notes to God expressing their thanks for his blessings in their lives.

Materials

For each student:

- 1 thank-you note
- pencil
- pen
- 1 piece of white, lined paper

For the teacher:

- dictionary

Preparation

1. Write your own thank-you note to God to show the students a model.
2. Bring enough thank-you notes for each student to have one. They should be nice—but not expensive—notes that you buy from a store.

Instructions

1. Tell the students that today's lesson teaches us that God always provides for our every need just as he took care of Abraham's every need. Show them the collages that they made in the pre-class activity and remind them that God has blessed them in many ways. Distribute the collages and tell the students to count all the different blessings on their papers. Tell them that they are going to write notes to God thanking him for all the blessings he has given them. They should use their collages to give them a list of things for which to thank God.
2. Show the students your collage and read your note to them as a model.
3. Distribute the white paper and pencils. Tell the students to write their rough drafts on the white paper. Encourage them to use the dictionary for words they do not know how to spell.

4. When they are each ready to write their final thank-you notes, read their drafts and check for spelling errors. Encourage them to do their very best since this is for God.
5. Give the students the thank-you notes. Be sure that they sign and date their notes when they have finished writing them. Encourage the students to decorate the envelopes and to write "To God" on the front.

Conclusion

Let your students take turns showing their collages and reading their notes to the group. Tell them to keep these in a special place at home where they won't lose them.

Teacher Tips

- Some students may be skeptical about writing notes "to God." Tell them that God can see their notes and will know what is in their hearts. Although they cannot "send" the notes to heaven, they can send their prayers of thanks to God.



The Sacrifice



The Sacrifice

Mixed-up Memory Verse

The students will have fun untangling the words to this verse as they commit it to memory.

Scripture Memory Verse

"See, he is puffed up;
his desires are not upright—
but the righteous will live
by his faith—"
Habakkuk 2:4

Materials

For each student:

- pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

1. Complete the activity yourself prior to class.
2. Memorize the memory verse.

Instructions

1. Introduce the activity by saying: *In today's lesson we learned that God provided for Abraham and that he always provides for us. The Bible says that Abraham was a man of great faith. The Bible calls a person who loves and obeys God "righteous." A righteous person is not always right, but he is someone who wants to do the right thing for God. Abraham was righteous because he had a relationship with God. He believed God when other people did not. That is why today we read about Abraham—because he is a great example for us.*
2. Tell the students that today's memory verse will remind them of Abraham. Show them the verse on the back of this card and read it to them aloud three times. Have them say it to you aloud three times.
3. Distribute copies of Page B and the pencils to the students. Hint: Encourage them to unscramble the scripture reference first, and then to look it up in the Bible to help them unscramble the rest. Circulate among the students to help them.
4. When the students have unscrambled the verse, have them sit in

a circle as you do the following:

Tell the students to close their eyes and listen to you say the verse.

Tell the students to open one eye and listen to you say the verse.

Tell the students to open both eyes, lift one foot, and listen to you say the verse.

Tell the students to say the verse with you in a whisper.

Tell the students to say the verse with you very slowly.

Tell the students to say the verse with you quickly.

5. Go around the circle and allow each student to say the verse with you.
6. Go around the circle and allow each student to say the verse with a partner.
7. Go around the circle and allow each student to say the verse alone.

Conclusion

Explain that a person who is "puffed up" is a person who does not want what God wants. What is the opposite of a person who is "puffed up"? (a righteous person) Tell the students to remember that God does not expect them to be perfect, but he does want them to live by faith. End with a prayer. Let each student ask God for help to live by faith.

Teacher Tips

- Know your students. Let some students work with a partner for extra encouragement and support.

The Sacrifice

Patriarchs 1
Lesson 4

“See, he is puffed up;
his desires are
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Habakkuk 2:4



3rd and 4th Grades

Lesson Objectives

- The students will describe three ways in which Abraham's faith produced obedience.
- The students will give two examples of how God provides for us.
- The students will explain one way in which they can be sacrificial.

Lesson Text

Genesis 22

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*Habakkuk 2:4***Lesson Plan**

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Steps of Faith

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: Sweet Sacrifices

Game: Just Like Abraham

Bible Skills: Searching the Scriptures

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

Steps of Faith

Open your Bible to Genesis 22. Fill in the blanks using the words at the bottom of the page.
Use the Bible to help you find your answers.

God gave Abraham a _____. God asked Abraham to give Isaac for an _____. It was a test of his _____. Abraham got up _____ the next day, took the wood and other things that he would need. He took two servants and his son Isaac. Together they went to a _____ that God would show them. Along the way, Isaac realized that there was no _____ for this offering. He asked his father, "Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham told Isaac that God would _____ the lamb for the offering. When they came to the mountain, Abraham built the _____. Then he took the rope and wrapped it around Isaac. He was just about to offer Isaac when an _____ called out to Abraham and said, "Do not lay a hand on the boy." The angel said that God knew that Abraham feared God because he was willing to give up Isaac. In the bushes, they found an animal to offer to God instead. Later on, the angel spoke to Abraham again. The angel said that God was going to _____ Abraham and make him _____ into a great nation because Abraham _____ him.

offering bless faith early
altar provide animal angel
obeyed mountain test

Steps of Faith

The students will retrace the steps of Abraham's faithful journey as they consider his obedience to God.

Materials*For each student:*

- pencil
- crayons or colored pencils

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

Complete the activity yourself prior to class.

Instructions

1. As the students arrive, distribute copies of Page C and the pencils.
2. Encourage the students to work together and to use their Bibles.
3. When the students have finished the activity, have them color and decorate their sheets.
4. Circulate among the students to offer assistance.
5. Be sure to pair the students who have not heard this week's Bible Story with those who have.

Teacher Tips

- Enhance the historical aspect of this activity by bringing in pictures, maps or artifacts relating to the time of the patriarchs.

Sweet Sacrifices

The students will make personal sacrifices, like Abraham, and then receive them back. They will find substitute sacrifices and consider how they can be like Abraham this week.

Materials

For each student:

- 2 small plastic sandwich bags
- 2 pieces ribbon, 12" long
- 2 plain white labels

For the teacher:

- a variety of popular candy, individually wrapped, and enough for each student to have ten pieces
- IMPORTANT: Be sure to check with all parents during registration for allergies to any of the candy that you have brought.

Preparation

1. Place a white label on one small plastic bag. Write your name on the label. Place five pieces of assorted candy in the bag and tie it with the ribbon. This is your model to show the students.
2. Prepare a "substitute" set of candy bags. For each student, prepare a small candy bag as described in step 1 except leave the labels blank. Keep these out of the students' sight. These represent a "substitute" sacrifice like the one that God provided for Abraham.
3. Make arrangements in advance for someone to receive the bags of candy from this activity, i.e. another class, someone sick or in the hospital, etc.

Preparing the Sacrifice

As the students arrive, show them your candy bag. Tell them that they will make one, too. Distribute the plastic bags, ribbon, labels, and candy. Tell the students that they may choose five pieces of candy. After they put the candy in the bags, tell them to write their names on the labels and place the labels on the bags. Have them tie the bags with ribbon. Discuss the following:

- *Does it make you feel good to have something special just for you? Think about Abraham. Do you think that having a son made him happy?*
- *What would you think if I said that we are going to give our*

The Sacrifice Patriarchs 1

Lesson 4

candy away? I have arranged for our class to give this candy to some people who will be very encouraged to have it. Tell the students about the people who will receive the candy. You are going to make a sacrifice so that someone else can feel good. Collect the bags of candy and thank the students as they give them back. Note the expressions and attitudes of the students as they do this. Remember: a sacrifice is when you give up something that is special to you.

- *I want you to think about how Abraham felt when God asked him to sacrifice his son Isaac. Abraham loved his son Isaac very much, but he loved God more. Abraham knew that Isaac was a gift from God. If God wanted Isaac back, Abraham believed that God could still provide him with a son.*
- *When God saw that Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac, he surprised Abraham and gave him an animal to sacrifice instead. God saw that Abraham loved God more than anything else. Now that I know that you are willing to give up your candy for others, I have a surprise for you. Return the bags of candy to the students.*

Conclusion

In a serious tone, ask: *What are we going to do about the people who were expecting this candy? They'll be sad if I have nothing to give them. Let's pray and ask God to help us.* Lead a prayer and ask God to help you to find a solution. Before ending the prayer, bring out the prepared bags of candy, saying: *Look at what I've found! God has provided us with a substitute sacrifice so that the others will get some, too.* Have the students write short notes of encouragement on the labels to those who will receive the candy.

Teacher Tips

Try to arrange for the students to be able to give the candy to the recipients. If that is not possible, be sure to tell the students how their gifts were received.



3rd and 4th Grades



Just Like Abraham

The students will experience the combination of trust and obedience in this activity.

Materials

For each student:

- blindfold

Preparation

1. Practice this activity at home.
2. Bring enough blindfolds for each student in the center.

Instructions

1. Tell the students that they will have the chance to trust and obey—just like Abraham—in today's game. Remind the students of this week's lesson, saying: *Do you remember all the ways that Abraham showed his faith in God? (Take responses.) He waited for twenty-five years for a child. He obeyed God when God told him to sacrifice his son. He told Isaac that God would provide the sacrifice. Abraham could not always see what God was going to do, but he still trusted him and obeyed.*
2. Seat the students in a circle as you blindfold them. Tell them that now they are like Abraham who trusted and obeyed God even when he could not see what God was doing.
3. Help the students to stand up, staying in a circle. Tell the students to listen carefully as you tell them what to do. Lead them through the following steps, saying:
 - *Touch your head. Touch your shoulders. Touch your knees. Be very careful and touch your toes.*
 - *Lift your right foot. Put it down. Lift your left foot. Put it down. Lift your right hand and put it on your right knee. Lift your left hand and put it on your left knee.*
 - *Stand up straight. Lift your arms up and hold them straight out in front of you. Put them down. Slowly turn yourself around in a circle.*

- *Hold hands with the students next to you.* Help students to hold hands around the circle. *Now follow me.* Take the hand of one student and lead the group slowly on a walk around the game area. Tell the students not to let go. Reassure them that you are going to lead them safely.
 - Lead them back to the circle and have the students sit down. Help them to remove their blindfolds.
4. Encourage the students by saying that they were just like Abraham because they trusted and obeyed.
 5. Ask the students: *What was the hardest thing for you to do when you were blindfolded? Did you ever feel afraid that you would fall? How did it feel to walk around the room?*

Conclusion

Ask the students to compare what they did today with what Abraham had to do in the Bible. Which do they think was more difficult? Do they have the faith to trust and obey God even when they cannot see exactly what he is doing? Close with a prayer asking God to help each student obey just like Abraham.

Teacher Tips

- Do not allow the students to get carried away while blindfolded. Redirect negative behavior by focusing on positive behavior.



Searching the Scriptures

The students will learn how to use a concordance as they find scriptures that relate to this week's Bible Story.

Materials

For each student:

- pencil
- Bible with a concordance
- dictionary

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

1. Complete your copy of Page D prior to class.
2. Provide enough Bibles and dictionaries for every two students.

Instructions

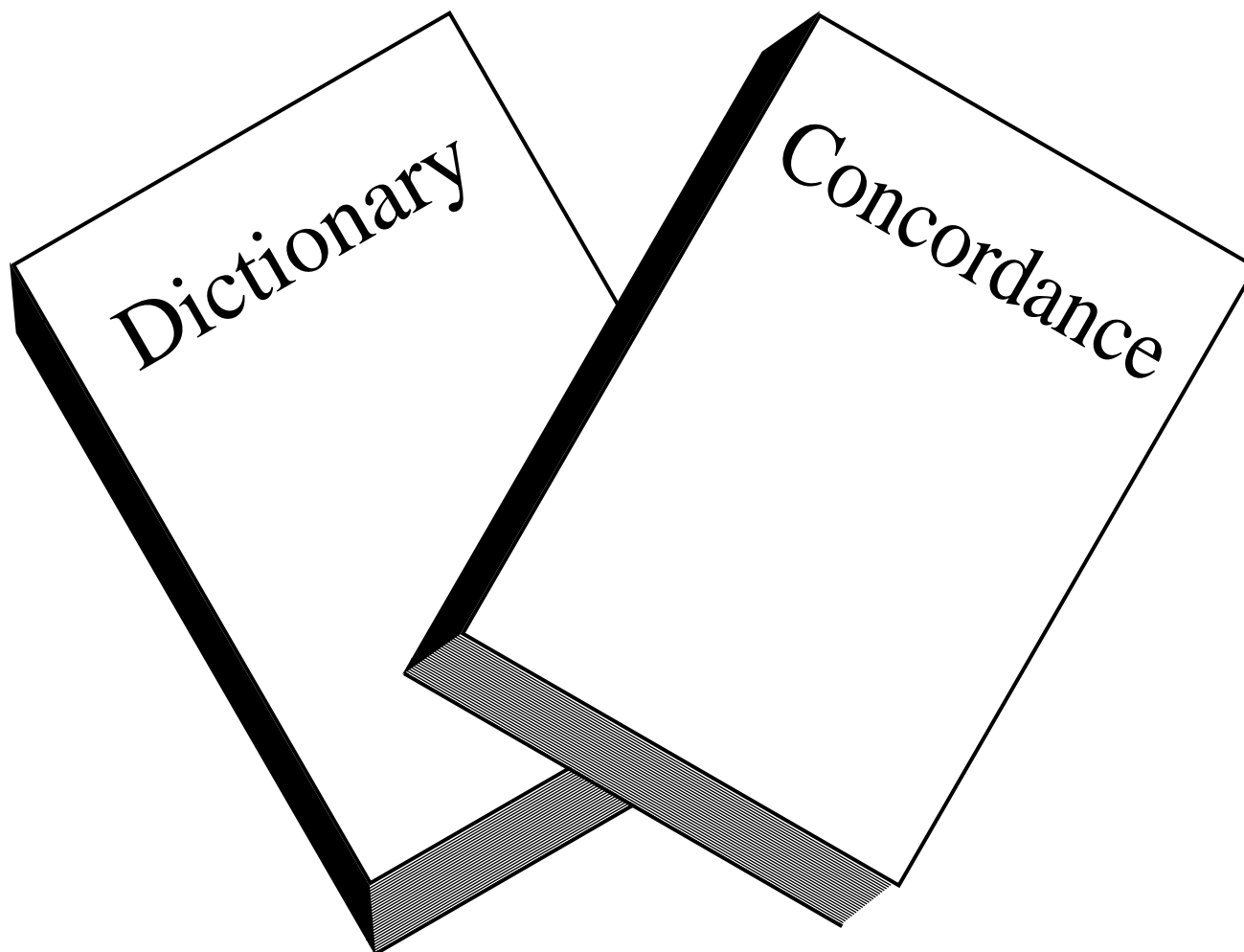
1. Remind the students that this week's lesson shows us Abraham's deep faith in God. Tell the students that faith comes from hearing the word of God—which is the Bible. Tell them that they are going to find verses in the Bible by using a concordance that will help them to learn more about Abraham.
2. Tell the students that a concordance works like a dictionary, except that it does not give a definition. It tells us where to look in the Bible to learn about a word. Show them where to find the concordance in the Bible.
3. Tell the students to find a partner for the activity. Encourage them to help each other.
4. Distribute copies of Page D, the pencils, Bibles and dictionaries to the students. Read the directions to the students aloud.
5. When they have finished looking up the words in the dictionaries, tell them to look the words up in the concordances, and to write the references in the space provided. If there is not enough room in the space provided, the students may write on the back of their sheets.
6. Circulate among the students to offer assistance.

Conclusion

1. Go around the group and allow the students to take turns reading the definitions they found in the dictionaries.
2. Have the students read the references they found in the concordances. They should raise their hands if they found the same references. For example: For the word "Faith," several students may have found Hebrews 11:1-2. Have them raise their hands if another student has the same reference that they found.
3. Encourage the students to read the Bible verses that they found for their quiet times this week.

Teacher Tips

- See if you can borrow study Bibles with concordances from other disciples in your ministry for this activity.



Abraham's Report Card

Faith

Obedience

eeS, eh si uffpde pu;

shi dsseeir rae ont pightru

tub het eousright lliw levi

yb shi thfia—

kaHabukk 2:4

Open your Bible to Genesis 22. Fill in the blanks using the words at the bottom of the page.
Use the Bible to help you find your answers.

God gave Abraham a _____. God asked Abraham to give Isaac for an _____. It was a test of his _____! Abraham got up _____ the next day, took the wood and other things that he would need. He took two servants and his son Isaac. Together they went to a _____ that God would show them. Along the way, Isaac realized that there was no _____ for this offering. He asked his father, "Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham told Isaac that God would _____ the lamb for the offering. When they came to the mountain, Abraham built the _____. Then he took the rope and wrapped it around Isaac. He was just about to offer Isaac when an _____ called out to Abraham and said, "Do not lay a hand on the boy." The angel said that God knew that Abraham feared God because he was willing to give up Isaac. In the bushes, they found an animal to offer to God instead. Later on, the angel spoke to Abraham again. The angel said that God was going to _____ Abraham and make him into a great nation because Abraham _____ him.

offering

bless

faith

early

altar

provide

animal

angel

obeyed

mountain

test

Supplement/Bible Skills

1 copy for each student

Part One: Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the definitions in the space below.

Faith:

Obedience:

Sacrifice:

Searching the Scriptures

Patriarchs 1 Lesson 4

Part Two: Look up the following words in the concordance and write the references in the space below. Use the back of this page for extra space.

Faith:

Obedience:

Sacrifice:



3rd and 4th Grades