

Theme: Bible Characters (BC04) Isaac

Aim: To hear the story of Isaac and how he was a special child with a great destiny to fulfil and how he in turn had to pass this destiny onto his own children.

Sunday 19th July

Game: Kim's game

Place items that bring comfort e.g plasters, money, cuddly teddy, child's blanket, bar of chocolate, mobile phone (friends), mug (hot drink/milk), (Doll's) bed and have a good look at them, then cover the tray and remove from it one item. Ask the people in your house to guess/remember which item was missing. Repeat as many times as you wish.

All these items on the tray bring comfort us. There are many different things and we each have our favourites which help us in different situations. Sometimes we need someone to talk to, sometimes practical things help like plasters, food or drink and sleep, other times old favourites teddies or comforter blankets help us feel loved. God comforts us in a variety of ways according to our needs too.

Craft:

Draw/paint a picture of a tree on an A4 piece of paper. Create a family tree of all the people in your family by writing their names or drawing pictures of them in the tree. Think about who the important people you are connected to are - either in your family or other significant people. Look at all the connections you have with other family members. Once you have finished pray for the different people in your family. Today we're hearing about Abraham's family starting with his son Isaac. You can read on from Genesis 21 to hear more about this great family and see just how big it grows.

Story: Genesis 21

Abraham and his wife Sarah only had one son, a boy called Isaac. Isaac had been born when his mother was 90 and his father 100, so they knew they would have no more children together! They also knew that God had promised them that their descendants would become a huge tribe of people and even though they only had one son they believed this. So when God told Abraham to take his son Isaac up a mountain and kill him as a sacrifice, Abraham must have been surprised! Abraham obeyed God! He didn't argue. He told Sarah that he and Isaac were going to worship God together, piled up some firewood, and set off the Mount Moriah. Isaac and Abraham travelled a long way, with some servants. Then Abraham told the servants to wait while he and Isaac went to worship. And the two climbed the mountain together. Abraham made an altar and laid wood on top of it. Isaac looked around and said, "Father - we have everything, apart from the lamb. Where is the sacrifice?"

"God will provide it," Abraham replied. And he took Isaac and laid him on the altar. He lifted his knife to kill his only son. And suddenly a voice from heaven called, "Stop!" Abraham stopped. "Abraham, your faith is great, and now I know how much you love me, because you wouldn't refuse to give me your own son." said God. And then Isaac saw a ram in the bushes with its horns caught in the briars. So Abraham and Isaac caught and killed the ram and offered it as a sacrifice. They worshipped God together and went home. Abraham had a big faith in God - he trusted that even if he killed Isaac, God would bring him back to life. Isaac learned that God loved him and that God provided. He also learned that his life was important to God! Isaac grew up to have a quiet, but real, faith in God.

To unpack the story download the free Bible app for kids click on Abraham's Big Test and watch the story. After watching the story complete the story mixup activity.

Activity: Timeline

Read Genesis (chapters 18-35) from a Bible at home. Put these in order (write them out or draw pictures of each scene (comic strip style))

- Abraham and Sarah didn't think they could have any children.
- God came to Abraham and Sarah and said they would have a son.
- Sarah had a baby boy called Isaac.
- God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac to him (but he didn't really make him do it).
- Isaac married Rebekah.
- Rebekah had twins called Jacob and Esau.
- Isaac and his family went to live in Gerar because there was no food where they lived.
- The people in Gerar fought with Isaac over who owned the wells.
- Isaac moved away.
- Isaac blessed his son Jacob instead of his son Esau.
- Jacob and Esau had a big fight and Jacob ran away.
- After many years, Jacob came back and made it up with his brother and they went to see Isaac before he died.

Isaac had an interesting life. What's important about Isaac is that he was in a long line of people who belonged to God and passed their faith down from father to son over and over again. Isaac was always remembered by God's people because he was part of this long line of people - even though his life wasn't the most exciting. God's people always talked about God as "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob".

Questions:

- Who do you trust?
- Why do you trust that person/people?
- Think of your favourite toy / game - is it lego, an x-box or your favourite doll. How would you feel if you were asked to give it away...would that be hard? But what if you knew that you'd get it back - and there would be another lego set as well, or a new game... this is like the story of Abraham. God asks us to trust him so that He can keep blessing us (but it probably won't be with new toys!).

Craft:

God is able to work in everyone's life - even if we don't see them doing great and wonderful deeds! Isaac lived a quiet, Godly life and trusted God to keep his promises. And God loved him and blessed him. God also loves us. Some of us will go on to do amazing things for God, but many of us will live quietly, serving God where we are in small but important ways. God knows which jobs each of us will do and each job is just as important! Go out for a walk and look at the ground at the stones. Choose a stone and take it home. Paint a design on the stone you have chosen that will help you to remember that you are special and unique to God.

Response:

At the end of Isaac's life, he gave special blessings to his sons. A blessing is a special prayer where we are reminded that God is with us and that he has a special plan for us. Do this as a family group blessing each person in your house/wider family. Play some quiet music and lie/sit still to help you concentrate.

Adults listen for words/scriptures/pictures they hear/see and share it with your family.

Prayer:

Dear God, help us, like Abraham, to trust You fully and have faith that You will provide. In Jesus' name, amen.