

YOUTH



LEVEL 3

BIBLE

LESSONS



LESSON 3



Abraham — A Man Who Obeyed God

ABRAHAM — A MAN WHO OBEYED GOD

Many, many years after the Flood, a boy named Abram was born. He grew up in a city called Ur. Ur was near the place where the ark landed after the Flood. Most people there prayed to idols. One day God spoke to Abram. He told Abram to move to another city. God promised him some big blessings if he would obey. Abram did not know just where he was to go. But he knew God would take care of him. Abram did not ask any questions. He just obeyed God right away.

Do you obey your mother and father when they tell you to do something? Or do you always ask “Why?” Your parents love you very much and want what’s best for you. God knew what was best for Abram. It made God happy to see Abram leave without asking any questions. It makes God happy, too, when you obey your parents.

This was a big move for Abram. Many people and animals had to move with him. Abram took his

wife named Sarai. Abram’s nephew, Lot, and Lot’s wife went along, too. They also had to take workers and their families along to take care of their many sheep and cattle.

Abram’s family traveled for many weeks. At last they came to an area called Canaan. It was a good place to grow food. But the people living there did not obey God’s laws. So God stopped the rain from falling in Canaan. The fruit trees and vegetables soon died. There was no water or food for all the animals. So Abram moved his family to Egypt. When the famine ended, Abram moved back to Canaan.

A few years passed. One day God spoke to Abram. “Look into the heavens, Abram,” said God. “Try to count the stars.” But that was no easy task! There were so many stars Abram could not count them all. Yet God said Abram’s family would be that big! Abram would have many children. His sons and daughters



would have many children. This would go on for many years. One day, the number of people in Abram's family would be as many as the stars!

God went on to tell Abram, "All the land you can see from where you stand will be yours. When you die, it will be for your children."

But Abram did not understand all that God told him. You see, he did not have any children to give his land to before he died.

Sarai was getting old, too. She was past the age when women can have children. So Sarai told Abram he should take Hagar as his wife. Hagar was Sarai's handmaid or servant. In those days a man sometimes had more than one wife. Sarai hoped that Hagar could have a child for them. So Hagar became Abram's wife. Sometime later she had a son named Ishmael.

A few years later God called Abram by a new name — *Abraham*. *Abraham* means "father of many people." Sarai was to be called *Sarah* which means "princess." Then God promised Abraham that Sarah would have a son, too. His name would be Isaac.

SODOM IS BURNED

Sometime later, three men came to Abraham's tent. Abraham did

not know it at the time, but two of the men were really angels. The third one was the member of the God family who later became Jesus. One of His names is "the Word." He did the speaking for the God family.

Abraham asked them in to eat and rest. They told Abraham that Sarah would have a son that year. At first, Sarah did not believe what she heard. But the news did make them both very happy. The one who later became Jesus stayed to talk. The angels went on to Sodom. He told Abraham about a plan to burn the city of Sodom. The people there did not obey God's laws and were so very unhappy.

Abraham knew that Lot lived in the city of Sodom, so he asked, "Must all the good people die along with the evil ones? Would You save the city if there were 50 people obeying God?"

"If there are 50 people obeying God, I will save the city," the Word answered.

"If there are 45 people who obey God," Abraham asked again, "will You save the city?"

"If there are 45 people keeping God's laws," answered the Word, "I will spare the city."

Abraham asked again and again. Each time he asked the Word to





save the city for a smaller number of people. Finally, he asked if the Word would spare the city for just 10 people.

Again the Word answered, 'I will save the city if I can find only 10 people who are obeying God.' But He could not find even 10!

When the angels came to Sodom, they met Lot. He asked them into his home. "Sodom is filled with evil people," the angels

told Lot. "God is going to burn the city. Take your family away. Don't stop and don't look back."

As they ran, they felt the heat of the flames. Lot's wife turned to see the burning city. She had not learned an important lesson. When God tells us to do something, He expects us to obey!

As she looked back, she turned into a piece of rock salt. We need to learn to obey God, too. Then we

won't have to learn lessons the hard way like Lot's wife.

Lot and the rest of his family ran to the next city.

A TEST OF ABRAHAM'S FAITH

Soon after, Abraham moved south. Just as God said, a son was born to Abraham and Sarah. God spoke through an angel and told them to name him Isaac. Before long, Isaac

was not a baby anymore. He was now a little boy.

Ishmael was Abraham's son, too. But Hagar felt that Abraham spent much more time with Isaac. Soon they began to say bad things about Isaac. Sarah heard them one day and became very angry.

Sarah went to Abraham at once. She told Abraham that she wanted Hagar and Ishmael to be sent



away. Abraham was very sad to hear this. He did not want to see them go. But he knew they would never be a happy family with both mothers in the same house. Abraham did not know what to do.

Then God said to him, "Don't be sad. Send Hagar and Ishmael away. I will take care of them." Abraham felt much better now. The next day, Hagar and Ishmael left Abraham.

Year after year, Abraham obeyed God's laws. He taught Isaac those same laws. But God wanted to really test Abraham's obedience.

One day God called Abraham and said, "Sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering!" Abraham could not believe what he heard. He had waited so long for Isaac. Why would God want to take him away? But Abraham knew that God loved him and knew best.

God told Abraham to take Isaac to the land of Moriah for the sacrifice.

The next morning Abraham and his servants packed for the trip to Moriah. Abraham told his son that they were going to make an offering to God. But he did not say what the offering would be.

The trip took two days. So Abraham had a lot of time to

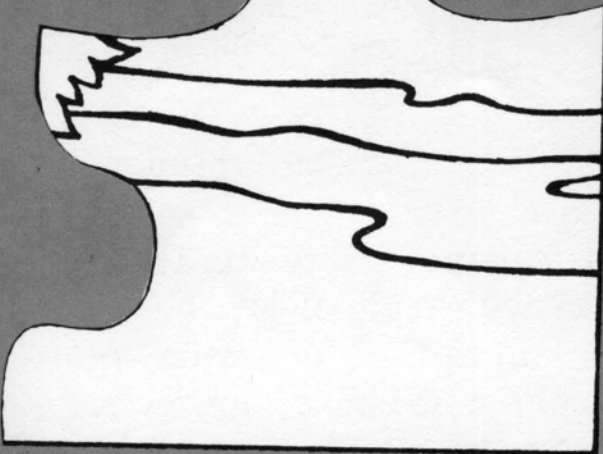
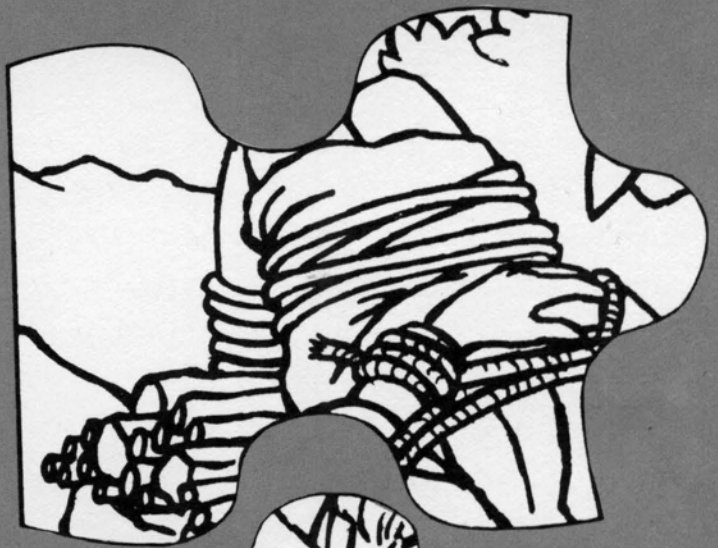
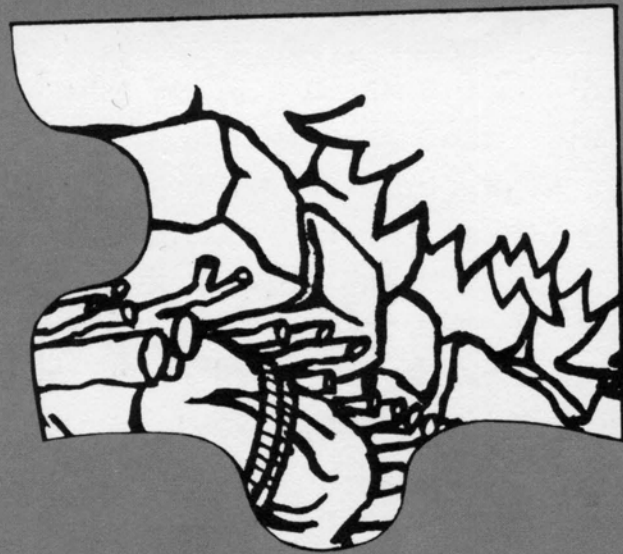
think. God said that many people would come from Isaac's children and grandchildren. So how could Isaac die now? Abraham became very sad. But he did not argue with God. He did not try to get out of doing what he was told to do. He knew he must obey.

When they came near the mountain, Abraham and Isaac went on alone. Isaac asked his father, "Where is the lamb for the offering?" Abraham told Isaac that God would give them the lamb.

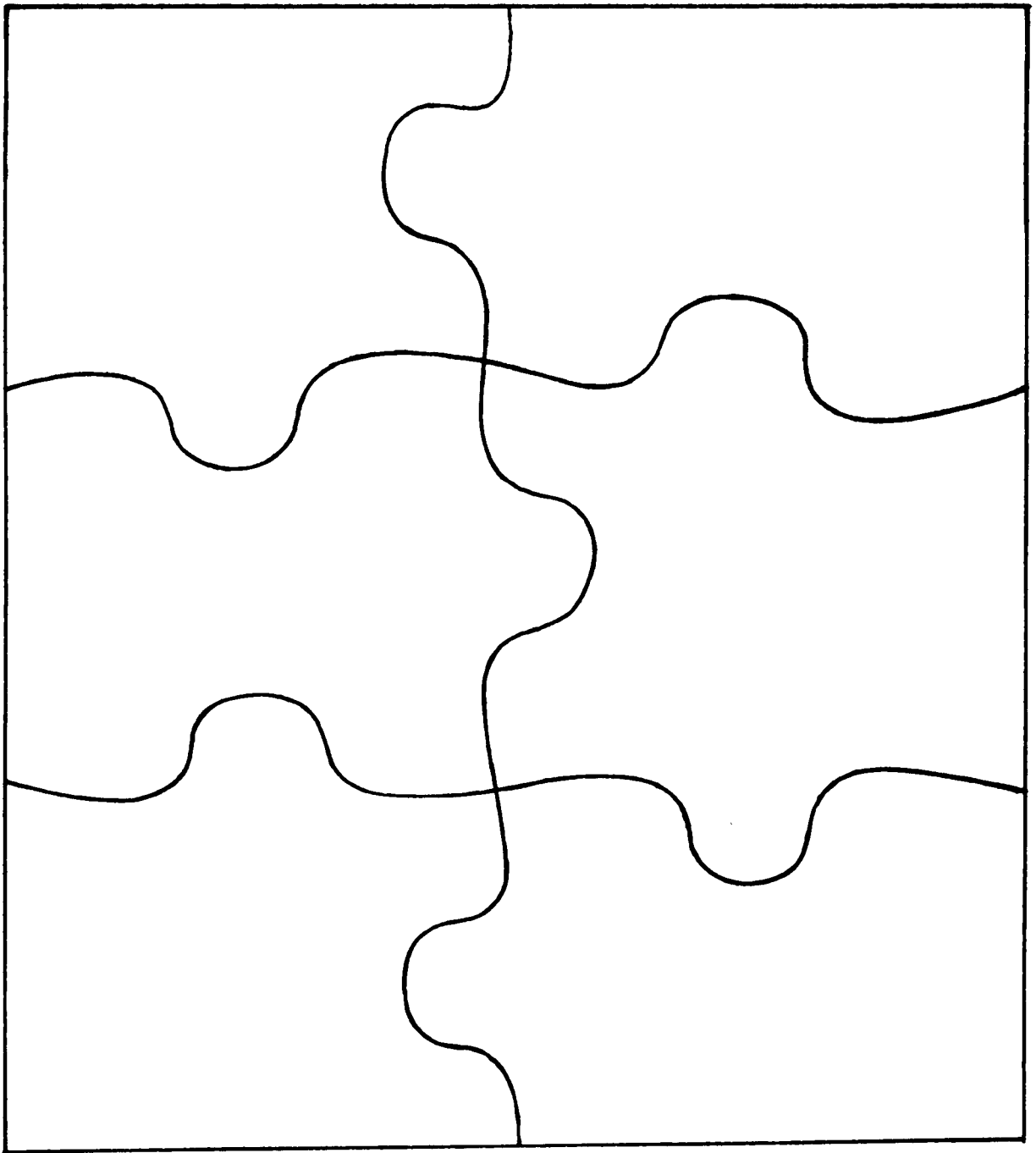
At last Abraham told him that he was to be the lamb. He tied Isaac upon the altar, picked up the knife and held it above his head. What a frightening moment for Isaac! How sad Abraham must have felt. He must kill the son he loved so much!

Suddenly a voice said: "Do not harm Isaac. You have been willing to give up your son. I know that you fear me." Abraham fell to his knees with tears of joy. He was so thankful to God for saving his son. As Abraham looked up, he saw a ram in the bushes. God had given the ram for the offering in place of Isaac.

As the years went by, Isaac grew up to be a strong man. He obeyed God's laws just as his father did.



Directions: Cut on the dotted line to remove this page from your lesson. Then cut out each puzzle piece. Paste them in the frame on the next page to find the special sacrifice God told Abraham to make.



Paste the puzzle pieces from page 9 in the frame above.

BIBLE MEMORY

Genesis 22:17-18

Fill in each blank with the word that completes the sentence. Then rewrite the word in the spaces on the right. After you have written the right answers, read the letters in the boxes from the top to the bottom. They will spell a word that tells a very important lesson we should learn from Abraham. If you cannot spell a word, the Word Bank will help you.

1. Abram's nephew was named _____
2. God changed Abram's name to _____
3. When there was famine in Canaan,
Abraham took his family to _____
4. God burned the city of _____
5. Before Sarah's name was changed she
was called _____
6. Sarah's name means _____
7. God told Abraham to sacrifice his
son as a burnt _____
8. The name of Abraham and Sarah's
son was _____
9. God promised Abraham _____ if he
would obey Him.

WORD BANK

princess

blessings

Abraham

Isaac

Egypt

Sodom

Lot

Sarai

offering